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JULIANA.

A NOVEL,

By the AUTHOR of

FRANCIS, the PHILANTHROPIST.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

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THE MAGIC OF PHILANTHROPY



JOURNAL

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JULIANA.

A NOVEL.

LETTER XXV.

WILLIAM CARYL, ESQ,

TO

SIR JAMES DAVENANT.

FROM depth of sorrow to excess
of joy! --- from hopeless anxiety to
cheerful expectation! --- from pangs of
neglected love to brightest prospects of
inexpressible happiness! such, Davenant,
are the changes which have taken place

VOL. III.

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in the fate and fortunes of your enraptured Caryl, in seven auspicious days ! ---hear and rejoice, nor rejoice alone ! ---find out ten distressed families, who have " sat at good men's tables," and restore comfort to their own, by dividing among them, in equal proportions, one thousand pounds, for which I inclose a draft on Coutts ; it is an act of thanksgiving, an oblation of praise !

Communicate this intelligence instantly to Habimah, and her three worthy and happy children---intelligence ! ---bear with me, Davenant, I am not very wise, or very sober, at this present writing---a little mad---only an ecstacy of joy---let me give it vent---I fly to---

I have taken a composing draught, and feel myself wonderfully calm ; but, lest

lest the lucid interval should be of short duration, and as I rather doubt its continuance, let me give you an abstract from this volume of "*eventful history*."

Travelling, as Frenchmen travel, with much haste, and little expedition, we arrived at the mansion of my companion, on the evening of the third day after our departure from the capital, and were received with great cordiality, by an amiable and truly respectable lady, the mother of my new friend, whose manners and appearance fully answered the expectations which had been raised by the repeated eulogies of a dutiful, affectionate, and grateful son.

As the Marquis had given me some hints of a love attachment, his impatience for the approach of morning,

excited no surprise; but, when he came early to my bed side, and pressed me to accompany him, in a visit, to the fair object of his regards, who, he assured me, was not only herself an English-woman, but had with her a dear friend, the companion of her youth, from the same country; I felt emotions of too tender a nature to admit of my compliance with his request---Englishwomen, in France!---and receiving the addresses of natives!---“oh! no, my good friend, you must excuse me; my spirits are neither in union with love, or tuned to gallantry; may you enjoy pleasures of which I am incapable!”

I took the opportunity of his absence to survey a noble castle, of antient construction, and a beautiful demesne; and I rejoiced in the approaching felicity

city of the deserving owner, whilst a sigh of regret escaped me, approximating so nearly to a mental complaint of cruel and undeserved fatality, that I determined to return to my apartment, and dress, that I might suppress the rising impatience, by a visit to the lady-mother of my friend.

I was engaged in this occupation, when the Marquis entered my dressing-room, and informing me that, as I had refused to attend the ladies at their habitation, they had kindly consented to accompany him to the castle; the mistress of his heart to gratify his wishes, and her friend, as she herself declared, in obedience to the dictates of her own curiosity, which demanded her acquiescence with the proposal, in terms too peremptory to be refused; he desired

that he might immediately introduce me to a pair of my countrywomen, one of whom had completely subdued his heart, and the other, he hoped, would exert her irresistible influence over mine.

It was with the utmost reluctance that I yielded to his solicitations ; but I could not, with any colour of civility, refuse to be at his disposition in the house where I was his guest ; and I, therefore, permitted him to lead me to his mother's apartment, where he presented me to the only person we found there, as an Englishman with whom he had formed a friendship, which he professed was highly flattering to himself, and would, he trusted, be approved by her, and considered as an earnest of his zeal to attach himself to the worth and honor,

honor, as well as to the beauty and accomplishments of a nation, to which he was indebted for prospects of happiness, which he must have sought for in vain in any other corner of the globe.

As I was now satisfied, that the lady before me was the intended Marchioness, I conceived, rather with pleasure than dissatisfaction, that my expectation of finding a companion with her, was founded on some misapprehension; and I was preparing, with no small degree of complacency, to second the address of my friend, when the door opened, and —— in somewhat less than ten minutes, I had recovered enough of reason to perceive, that I supported the still breathless form of —— Juliana Monteville !!!!

You will observe, my dear Davenant, but you have too much sense to complain, that I have given you no account of this meeting; in good truth it has been an omission of necessity; and, as I am only indebted to the bye-standers for accounts of it, I do not chuse to recapitulate such second-hand evidence; suffice it to say, that, in one hour from the moment of my *beatification*, my beloved Juliana was so perfectly restored to composure, as to be capable of giving and receiving explanations of those mysterious circumstances, which had overwhelmed with wretchedness your now unhappy friend, and affected the heart of the gentle Juliana, with a degree of anxiety which she is too ingenuous to conceal.

Soon

Soon after my departure from India, the public papers announced the death of a nephew of Mr. Caryl, and mentioned the island of Madeira, as the place of his decease; and, as no name was added to the description, and it was known that I was then on my passage to Asia, it was generally reported, and universally believed, that I had fallen a sacrifice to the change of climate, and the horrors of a voyage, supposed to have been undertaken with very little inclination on my part; nor were my father, and his friends, forward to contradict a rumour, which they believed might assist their purposes, by being the occasion of my making such a disposition of my heart and hand, as would effectually suppress every hope I might entertain, that a prospect, however distant, might

present itself, of effecting an union, which every branch of the family now concurred to oppose.

This report having reached the ears of Mr. Monteville, was, by him, exultingly communicated to his lovely daughter; and that haughty parent dying very shortly after, and leaving his lady, and only child, in circumstances unequal to their rank in life, they retired to the continent, and, fixing their residence in the vicinity of the castle of Suzaincourt, from the seignory of which my friend, the Marquis, derives his title, an intimacy commenced between the two amiable families, which has ripened into a friendship worthy of such admirable characters; and this circumstance gave birth to that report of her marriage, which has subjected your friend to many

hours

hours of woe, my own family affording eager credence to a tale so perfectly correspondent to their wishes, and broaching to me the unwelcome intelligence, with comments suited to the supposed occasion.

Nor could my sweet Juliana gather from the accounts published in the English news-papers (with which I find she was furnished from Paris) of my reception at the court of the Nabob, and my subsequent proceedings, the slightest information of my being still an inhabitant of the terrestrial globe, as in all those accounts the name of Caryl, for which, at the request of my uncle, I had exchanged that of Falconer, had been constantly used; and she well knew that a gentleman, of the former name, who stood in the same degree of affinity to

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my uncle, as myself, had been long resident in Bengal, and entertained no doubt, that, on my death, the commission with which I had been charged, was transferred to this relation.

Thus you see, my dear Davenant, we have both been cruelly deceived; and, but for this accidental, and thrice happy connection with the Marquis de Suzaincourt, the gentle spirit of my Juliana would still have brooded over the misfortune of my untimely death, whilst I had continued to deplore her infidelity, and to seek relief from unspeakable anguish, by forming conjectures as to the means by which she had been betrayed into a breach of vows, so often and so solemnly repeated.

And now, after so many shipwrecks, I may hope to find a safe and peaceful harbour;

harbour; my Juliana has avowed her unchanged, her unabated love, my fortunes are now much more than independent, the death of my elder brother has given me an undesired succession to a title, which, though of no estimation with my beloved, may, perhaps, have some weight with her *dignified* relation, if she should think it necessary to solicit his consent to our union; and my father and uncle will rejoice to promote a measure, which will remove their anxiety for the safety of a life, which has been apprehended to be rather in a precarious state, since my return to Europe.

And, having noticed this right honorable uncle of my Juliana, I cannot help remarking, that the mention of his name seems to produce a gloom on the dear girl's countenance, which I can, by

no means, account for; --surely she cannot think herself under the controul of him, from whom she never experienced the smallest degree of kindness, and who never, in his life, afforded her the most distant proof of affection! ---but away with conjectures! ---why should I impede my progress to happiness, by stumbling blocks of my own raising? ---my Juliana suggests no difficulties! ---yet I have not hitherto been explicit---to-morrow shall my fate be determined... I had rather know the worst than doubt---what a puppy! ---is it possible to doubt the truth of Juliana Monteville? ---begone perplexities! ---Adieu, Davenant! ---expunge the last paragraph of this strange letter---I detest it.

Ever yours,

WILLIAM CARYL.

L E T T E R XXVI.

WILLIAM CARYL, ESQ.

T O

SIR - JAMES DAVENANT.

Castle of Suzaincourt, 177

IN turning the variable wheel of life, my dear Davenant, blanks and prizes are indiscriminately thrown up, and the same hand which ministers the sparkling goblet of joy, prepares the black and bitter potion of misfortune! ...so says Experience; ---to which Philosophy adds this salutary caution, that, in taking copious draughts from the former, we should dread a surfeit; and that, in swallowing the latter, however unpalatable

unpalatable the composition, Hope, founded on Virtue, may render it medicinal.

And these are excellent lessons in the abstract, but somewhat difficult in the application, inasmuch as our reason only is engaged in the investigation of causes, but our passions are concerned in the perception of effects; so that---alas! alas! Davenant, Reason and Philosophy, and Patience and Hope, are words---empty, unmeaning, unprofitable sounds; and, spite of all the vain precepts and idle boasts of stoicism, "*the stricken deer will weep.*"

Yesterday!---happy, unreturning yesterday!---how brilliant my prospects!---how felicitous my expectations!---today, what clouds intervene!---what storms assail!---what ruin threatens!---

and

and can such a change be effected in so short a period!---oh! no, no, no!---deceitful were the prospects; vain the expectations!---and I the miserable dupe of my own vanity, folly, and conceit!---

In pursuance of the determination, mentioned in the letter, which yet remains unsent, and which, accompanying this, I have marked on the cover, as the first to be opened, I, this morning, drew my ever beloved Juliana into a little wood, which adjoins her sweet habitation, and there, with all the soft persuasion which the purest love could dictate, I urged my suit; fearless of a repulse from her, in whose faith, truth, and mutual affection, I had the most perfect, the most undoubting confidence.

But, judge of my surprize, when, instead of the tender, blushing acquiescence

cence with which my fond hopes had flattered me, the lovely arbitress of my fate burst into tears, and in the most moving strains of pity-beseeching supplication, intreated me to spare the most unfortunate of women, who, whilst she avowed reciprocal regard, and gloried in the avowal, was doomed, by circumstances as unaccountable as unpropitious, to forego the happiness apparently within her reach, and involve in her distress, the man who, she scrupled not to acknowledge, possessed her heart, and whose long and faithful attachment intitled him to her eternal gratitude, and unalterable affection.

Impossible as it was for me to reconcile such incongruities, I demanded an explanation; and, to the subversion of all my hope, she informed me, that,

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in compliance with a requisition of her uncle, on his lately consenting to acknowledge her as the heiress of his fortunes; she had engaged herself, by solemn promise, never to receive any lover, but of his recommending; an engagement to which, at the time it was entered into, she had not the smallest reluctance, as all her affections lay buried in the supposed grave of your unfortunate friend, but which must now prove the source of misery, which could only end with her existence, as the exactation of such an assurance by Lord H----, originated in an apprehension, that she might, by some ignoble alliance, contaminate the proud blood of Monteville.

And in vain did I urge the contempt with which a promise so extorted ought

to

to be treated; in vain did I represent the competency of my own fortune, not only to comfort, but even splendor; in vain did I solicit the renunciation of that which depended on the observance of this cruel engagement; faithful to her word, thus solemnly pledged, the too rigid, but ever admirable Juliana, determines rather to endure the pangs of still disappointed love; nay, even to inflict them on the avowed object of her affection, than to purchase happiness at the expence of her truth, or by the sacrifice of that honor, which she holds more dear than even life itself.

And now, my dear Davenant, what remains for your unhappy friend, but to return to those shores to which he so lately said an everlasting adieu, and again engaging in scenes, from which

friendship

friendship and gratitude had withdrawn him, to seek a termination of sorrows, from which the grave alone seems likely to release him.

Yet, with the permission of my Julian, I am to make one effort with this supercilious votary to rank and title ; Mrs. Monteville, her daughter, Miss Charlton, the affianced partner of the worthy Suzaincourt, himself, and Madame de Suzaincourt, his mother, together with the Chevalier de Beaudefert, a most amiable friend of all the parties, and your Falconer ; are to leave the continent this day sen'night ; and, immediately after our arrival in your metropolis, I am to seek an introduction to this representative of antient nobility, through the mediation of a Mr. Methoid, a lawyer of distinguished worth, who is

honored

honored with his esteem, and whose regard for my Juliana has been shewn in a thousand instances of affectionate care and tenderness: as I have considerable sums of money by me, which I wish to invest in purchases and securities, I am to make myself known to this gentleman, by a request, that he will take upon him the management of these concerns for me; and, by the time my Juliana is received by her uncle, and established in his affection, which must be the consequence of a very short acquaintance with her virtues and accomplishments, I hope to be on such a footing with Mr. Methold, as to commit to him the dearest secret of my heart, and interest him in my favour; and, if I can prevail on him to lay before his noble client the history of our loves,

loves, the extent of my fortunes, and the warmth and disinterestedness of my attachment to his fair relation, I shall not totally despair; though, in the indulgence of the most distant dawn of hope, I am much more sanguine than my beloved Juliana, who seems persuaded that nothing less than a right honorable offer, and not even that from a newly-ennobled plebeian, will be received with approbation, by this Peer of high descent, with whom a genealogical table of titled ancestry, is a sufficient compensation for every defect in virtue, honor, and understanding.

It happens most unfortunately that you should, at this critical moment, when the other partner of my heart, my amiable preserver, Webster, is worthily engaged in administering comfort and
consolation

consolation to a now fond parent, whose life, endangered by a fall from his horse, he would preserve at the expence of his own, be called on to attend your uncle at Beverley; but, as you know his estate must be your's by settlement, and that all his savings are devoted to his natural children, your affectionate attention to him, at the close of his life, must be doubly acceptable; and, though I shall long to introduce you to the amiable companions of my journey, yet I would by no means interrupt your performance of the duty in which you are so worthily engaged, though my punctual correspondence, which you know it is unnecessary for you to solicit, will but poorly atone for the loss you will sustain by even a temporary deprivation of the pleasure which awaits you, when you shall

shall be at liberty to join the little society, which will be formed by the addition of so many shining characters, to those with whom you are already acquainted.

In compliance with the request of my father, and by the permission of my uncle, signified in my last pacquet from England, I have resumed the name by which you first gave me a title to your friendship; if it was in no other way of consequence to me, that circumstance would stamp a value on it, and I shou'd on that account, rejoice to subscribe myself,

Your ever affectionate,

WILLIAM FALCONER.

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LETTER XXVII.

THE CHEVALIER DE BEAUESERT,

TO

MONSIEUR BONDIT.

London,

177

IS it not from your council, my dear and ever-esteemed father, that I have derived the comforts which result from calm and humble resignation? Have not your wise, but cheerful admonitions, rescued me from despair? And have you not taught me, by example, as well as precept, the duty of patient submission to the dispensations of that Being, who corrects not in wrath, but in mercy? Have you not dealt out

to

to me the balm of consolatory hope, and bid me, with confidence, look forward to the day, when the tear should be wiped from the eye of sorrow? And am I not, at this moment, in full possession of the happiness which your prophetic and propitious presage, so repeatedly placed in my view? I am—but, whilst I hold in my hand, the cup, charged with the choicest blessings which Heaven could bestow, let me sanctify the precious draught by the most devout and fervent acknowledgment of unbounded mercy to infinite unworthiness!

Yes, my more than parent, my heavenly guide and director, my true, my constant, my amiable friend, even in this world, which I have so long consecrated as the vale of sorrow, is such

happiness afforded me, as amply compensates for all my years of woe, and repays with the most perfect joy of which humanity is capable, the pangs I have endured for losses, which I deemed irreparable ?

Yet, let me not keep your susceptible and sympathizing heart in suspence ; for you, who have borne a tender part in my grief, will participate in my rejoicings ! I have found my long lost wife, my beloved Theresa ! my daughter too, amiable as parental partiality could hope, or fondest expectation suggest !

You have heard the worthy and entertaining Caryl (Falconer, I must, in future, call him) mention, with warmest praise and admiration, his Indian friends ; you have heard him expatiate on the virtues of the mother, and the merit and accomplish-

complishments of the daughter ; these, my dear friend, are the wife, the daughter of your Beaudesert ; these are your children, for with your unworthy son, you must adopt his more deserving relatives, restored to me by the Hand, whose unerring guidance directs, by ways in which the consummate of human wisdom would deviate, the footsteps of the forlorn and wretched wanderer, to Peace and Happiness.

From the lips of these your newly-born children, shall you hear their interesting story, with every circumstance of their miraculous preservation ; I shall only briefly recount the general outlines of a tale, to the recital of which, at large, I confess myself unequal.

On the arrival of the ship, which bore from me all I held dear, though I was,

at the time, rendered insensible of my loss, by the severity of my wounds, at the capital of the pirate Prince ; the unfortunate captives were examined, by the ministers of his will and his pleasures, and consigned to the departments for which they were found qualified ; the wretched lot of my Theresa, was the dreaded seraglio ; but, as it was apprehended her life might be endangered by taking from her the infant then at her breast, she escaped, not from motives of humanity, but of interested precaution, the horrors of that separation.

The apartments to which those women were confined, who had not yet been honored with the tyrant's notice, having no communication with each other, and distinct attendants being appointed to each, the unhappy Theresa was left in
the

the undisturbed possession of unequalled sorrows, and to the mournful care of an infant, whose fate, like her own, appeared marked with the darkest characters of wretchedness.

Twelve miserable months did she languish in fruitless grief, and dreadful expectation ; at length the storm, which had so long impended in her apprehension, threatened to burst on her, and the evil, which she had hitherto surveyed at a distance, approached with a rapid and apparently inevitable progress ; the pirate chief having, by accident, gained a sight of her, became instantly enamoured with her person, and she received, in the same instant, orders to relinquish the care of her beloved infant, and to prepare for the reception of this self-created monarch, either in the character

of her favored lover, or her sovereign lord and master.

Though she possessed not the power of resistance, yet these injunctions were too cruel to be submitted to with patience, or resignation; she solicited, in vain, a respite from her destroyer, but Heaven inclined an ear of pity to her importunities; at this critical moment, the fortress of this lawless depredator was attacked by a British armament; his force, too weak to withstand the united efforts of bravery and skill, yielded to the assailants; confusion ensued; and a general order being issued to remove the females from the seraglio, to the interior parts of the piratical territories, it was executed in such haste, and with so little caution, or attention, that my beloved Theresa escaped, with her precious charge;

charge; and, resolving rather to perish in the attempt to make her way to the settlements of some European power, than to incur perils infinitely worse than death, in its most tremendous shape, by remaining in the power of the brutal invader of her virtue; she committed herself, and her innocent and unconscious infant, to the protection of that Providence which had interposed so propitiously to save her from the extremity of wretchedness; and, without guide, direction, or provision, she ventured on the pathless desert, fearless of dangers, which could only affect her life.

Nor was she forsaken by the gracious Being, in whom she had reposed her confidence; in the evening of the first day she reached a friendly grove, which afforded her shelter, fruits, and water,

and, overpowered with fatigue, both she and her beloved burthen, sunk into a sweet repose, regardless of the horrors of solitude, or the ravages of the beasts of the forest.

On the second day, she encountered a small party of the dusky natives, who were removing, with their families, and their flocks, from the territories of the chief, from whose hands she had escaped, to those of a neighbouring prince; by these humane and innocent people, she was treated with such kindness and tenderness, as would have reflected honor on the most civilized and polite nations; they divided with her their humble means of sustenance, assisted in carrying the dear pledge of our loves, and, as they found she had some knowledge of their language, cheered her drooping spirits,

spirits, with assurances of her approach to the habitations of European settlers.

But their journey reached not to the borders of the province, in which they had taught her to expect the blessing of which she was in pursuit; in the morning of the sixth day's travel with her inoffensive and virtuous companions, she had the mortification to receive their farewell; their course now lying wide from that which would conduct her to the promised asylum, they furnished her with the best directions in their power, shared with her their little remains of provision, and left her, with fervent and honest prayers to the object of their Adoration, for her future safety and comfort.

And, on the very day which opened with such gloomy and melancholy pro-

pects, did Heaven bring relief to this patient child of misfortune, by conducting to the spot to which she had retired from the fervor of the mid-day sun, the worthy Moranzebe, that amiable friend of my second preserver, the truly excellent Falconer, whose virtues you have so often heard him commemorate, and whose loss he so constantly deplores.

With the sequel of this memorable history you are already acquainted; from your admired Falconer, you have heard it, with all the interesting circumstances; little did we suspect, when we mourned with the venerable Moranzebe, and rejoiced at the deliverance of the beauteous Arzela; when we wept for the anxiety of the faithful Omaraddin, and participated in the felicity of his happy and unexpected recovery of the mistress of his

his heart ; that we listened to the preserver of my honor, the guardian and protector of my beloved daughter, the restorer of peace and comfort to my Theresa, and to her, and your Beaudefert !

With my daughter also, I have found, in the gentle Omaraddin, a son, worthy all my affection ; humble, unassuming, mild, benevolent, and liberal, he most deservedly possesses a full share of my parental regards ; and, if there can exist in this imperfect state, any thing like complete happiness, it is to be found with Beaudefert, and his Theresa, and their pleased and pleasing representatives.

Immediately after their arrival in this country, the young folks exchanged their Indian names, for those of Theresa and

and William, to which they have, at my request, now added the surname of Beaudesert; and, before they were joined in marriage, they were received into the Christian church, according to the rites of the established religion of this country; to you, whose enlightened mind, and unassumed piety, soar above forms and ceremonies, the manner of their admission to the benefits of Christianity, will appear of little importance; nor will you scruple to receive into your flock, the virtuous of any sect.

And now, my dear friend, let me end as I began, with praises and thanksgivings to the author and promoter of all the blessings by which I am surrounded; nor let me, in this zenith of prosperity and happiness, forget, that he who hath given, may also take away;

that

that so, whilst I enjoy, with gratitude, the mercies I receive, I may prepare to resign, without murmuring, to all his dispensations.

And, next to my Heavenly Father, to you let me offer my acknowledgments; to you, whose hope-inspiring conversation, and mild and parental admonitions, have preserved and fitted for these scenes of felicity,

Your ever affectionate,

And respectful,

DE BEAUDESERT.

LET.

LETTER XXVIII.

MISS MONTEVILLE,

TO

MISS CHARLTON.

Grosvenor-Square,

177

WHEN I parted with my dear Louisa, on Wednesday morning, how different were our sensations ; you, surrounded by friends, and protected by him, who, with universal approbation, is soon to have a legal title to that distinguished happiness ; and, your trembling Juliana, unnerved by her apprehensions, chilled by "*cold fear*," and humbled by conscious poverty, and the terrors of obligation ; scarce able to support

port the dread of an interview, to which duty, rather than interest, had induced her to submit.

As we approached the house, my depression increased, even to hysterics; and, when the coach stopped at the door the intreaties and comforting assurances of my dear mother, could hardly restrain me from ordering the driver to turn back.

At length the door opened, and several servants presented themselves, the complacency and respectful observance of whose looks, bespoke pleasing expectation, and gave me an animating presage of a reception less tremendous than my disordered imagination had presented to me.

And, before we could reach the apartment into which we were conducting,

ing, we were met by my noble relation, who, with an air equally gallant and respectful, took a hand of each, and, leading us into his own dressing room, first saluted us, and then kindly placed us in our seats, and, in language polite and affectionate, welcomed us to an habitation, which, he trusted, his endeavours would render agreeable to us.

As my countenance betrayed the state of my spirits, he, with the utmost consideration, gave me time to recover myself, by entering into an easy conversation with my mother, on the part of the continent which she had just quitted, our manner of living there, and those common topics, which, leading me insensibly to take a part in it, gave me the encouragement I wanted, without the pain which must have accompanied an offer of it. Thus

Thus emboldened, I ventured to survey the person of an uncle, who I had never seen from my infancy, and whom a variety of circumstances had conspired to prevent my forming the most favorable idea of; and, I believe, it is a remark too obvious not to be general, that we are apt to entertain opinions, by no means advantageous, of those whose dispositions we suspect to be unfriendly to us.

Confessing this to be the case with myself, on the present occasion, judge how agreeable must be my disappointment, when I discovered, in the person of Lord H----, a figure, which, even in age, retained perfect grace; a countenance florid, open, and manly; eyes black, brilliant, and uncommonly penetrating; a manner dignified, yet minutely

nutely condescending ; and a voice modulated by that key which commands respect, whilst it engages the most pleasing attention.

Such, my dear Louisa, is that uncle, whom I have been used to consider as a kind of bugbear, and whose advances to friendship, I should actually have avoided, but from motives of gratitude to my mother, and my most excellent friend, Mr. Methold ; but whom I already regard, with a degree of veneration, which, I perceive, will soon ripen into filial love.

After we had conversed, with great freedom, for about an hour, Lord H--- asked us, if we had any objection to his sending a servant for our trunks ; and, returning from giving orders which we could have no possible reason to oppose,

pose, he proposed to shew us the apartment which he had destined for our use, and of which he begged leave to put us in immediate possession, that we might be at no loss to arrange our baggage, at its arrival, in doing which he had ordered his own female servants to assist, till we were provided with proper attendants of that sex ; on which subject he desired me to give my directions to his housekeeper, as he would his to his Maitre d'Hotel, to procure a coachman and footman to make our establishment complete.

We were now shewn, by this generous friend, into an apartment, consisting of two bed-rooms, a closet, capacious enough to contain a bed for our women - servants, and a dressing - room, which, as if he had consulted my taste, and

and meant to anticipate my wishes, I found furnished with books, musical instruments, birds, and flowers.

After preventing our thanks, by friendly and affectionate congratulations, he seated himself between us, on a sofa, and, turning to me, "Miss Monteville, in future my Juliana," says this unexpectedly kind relation, taking my hand, "you are now at home, consider yourself so in all respects, it shall be my endeavour to render your residence here pleasing to you, and my business to introduce you to your equals in rank, though I am proud to say, I think you will find very few among them, whose beauty and accomplishments will bear any comparison; the little income which, with such laudable zeal and dutiful regard, you secured for your good mother,

ther, must be all her own, and I must be permitted to add to it, from time to time, my acknowledgments of the obligations I owe her for the rich setting which her cultivation has bestowed on this invaluable jewel: for your pocket expences, Juliana, cloaths, female servants, and the exercise of that benevolent disposition, which I would, on no account, restrain; I have appropriated an annual sum of five hundred pounds to be paid you, by half-yearly payments;" and, presenting to me a pocket-book, superbly ornamented, "you will find here the amount of one payment, by way of anticipation."---

Overpowered by the united force of his generosity, and his tenderness, I could no longer resist the impulses of my gratitude, and my affection; but,
dropping

dropping upon my knee, I seized his hand, and, pressing it to my lips, exclaimed, in broken and disjointed syllables, my God, make me deserving of this profusion of goodness !

Nor was my noble benefactor unmoved by my sensibility ; but, raising me in his arms, he pressed me to his bosom, and dropped the silent tear of affection and approbation.

The servants announcing the arrival of our trunks and packages, Lord H--- took his leave of us, hoping we should be ready to meet him at dinner, at four o'clock, an hour to which he was accustomed but would, in future, change, if it should prove disagreeable, or inconvenient to us ; an offer which, you may be assured, we immediately declined.

Mrs.

Mrs. Mercer the housekeeper now appeared and tendered her assistance, but this we could by no means admit.— She is a gentlewoman of most valuable character, the widow of a clergyman, and has superintended this family since the death of Lady H. which happened about two years ago, in such a manner as to gain the esteem of her Lord, and the respect of his domestics and dependents.

She told us it was his Lordship's wish that we should engage two female servants, one to be immediately about my person, and the other to attend my mother—perhaps, she said, we might be already provided with both, if not, she had a relation, a young woman, well educated, who had never yet been at service, but had met with some mis-

fortunes, and it would complete her happiness, if I would accept her. And this I assured her I would do with the utmost readiness, at the same time acquainting her that my mother had an old faithful domestic to whom she had an affectionate and indeed a grateful attachment, as she had followed our fallen fortunes with the most disinterested zeal.

Your old friend and favorite is to join us here this evening, and to-morrow I am to see my new attendant; and no difficulty now remains with me, but the disposition of honest Nicolai, who could not be prevented from accompanying us to England, and whose integrity and respect for my mother and myself, merits that regard to his interest, which we wish to have some means of shewing. We

We amused ourselves till the hour of dinner with placing such of our little matters in order, as we could manage without giving trouble to any of his Lordship's servants, and when we were summoned to table, at the head of which I was placed, we had the happiness to meet our worthy Mr. Method, who had been invited by his Lordship on an occasion, as he kindly expressed himself, so pleasing to him, and for which he was in a great measure indebted to that gentleman, whose warm and avowed regard for your Julian, had first excited an inclination, to see and protect me, circumstances which he was satisfied would prove sources of happiness to him for the remainder of his life.

As I find your stay at Richmond is to be prolonged, on account of the tar-

diness of the workmen who are preparing the Marquis's house in Berkeley-Square for the reception of his family, I shall continue my accounts of this my new settlement: I am now obliged to break off, to dress for the drawing room, his Lordship desiring to have me presented before I make my appearance at public places in the character of his niece and intended heiress.

And, little as my heart is disposed to pomp and shew, and happy as I should be to renounce all the hopes and dreams of ambition for love and a cottage; yet do I endeavor to enter with an appearance of satisfaction into all the plans of my good uncle, which, as they are apparently directed to my advancement in life, and are consequently in his opinion calculated to promote my interest, are

favors

favors on his part which I am bound to receive with gratitude, though they operate to the subversion of the only hope I can form of comfort or happiness.

To-morrow I shall resume my narrative, till then adieu !

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

LETTER XXIX.

MISS MONTEVILLE,

TO

MISS CHARLTON.

Grosvenor-Square,

177

SOON after the desert was removed, the conversation turning on pictures, Lord H— told Mr. Methold

that he had in the next room a landscape of Clades, which he had brought from Monteville-Castle to get it cleaned, and offering to shew it him, on that gentleman's rising to attend him, he took my hand, and putting it into Mr. Methold's bid him conduct his ward, while he did the honors of the house to his excellent sister.

On my expressing great admiration of the painting of this inimitable master, his Lordship paid me many undeserved compliments on my judgement, and added, "but I am informed you are not only an amateur but a professor, and must expect to be gratified by a sight of some of your performances;" to this I bowed acquiescence, and we were returning to the dining parlour, when Mr. Methold, pointing to a piano forte, reminded

reminded my uncle of another part of his recommendation, and his look be-speaking a wish to hear me play, I sat down to the instrument, which I found in perfect order, and opening an English Opera which lay before me, played and sung one of the most favorite airs.

Animated by his Lordship's frequent exclamations of approbation, I have no doubt but I performed to the very top of my moderate abilities; is there an instance where the human composition is unmixed with vanity? I believe not, but if there is, I am ready to acknowledge your Juliana is not the exception; yet is not all the satisfaction I felt to be attributed to this motive, it had its source, I hope chiefly, in a nobler principle, grateful joy, at being found to possess

possess any talent which could be acceptable to my benefactor.

My uncle has I find been himself a great master, and excelled both in taste and execution; at our return to the dining parlour, his Lordship told me, he should now resume his fiddle stick, the use of which he had for sometime laid aside; adding with a smile, "but my dear cousin, you must take care not to inspire me with too much boyism, lest I should really fancy myself young again, and mar your fortunes."

In the evening we were joined by a Mr. Walsingham, a gentleman, who, as my uncle has since informed us, has met with many misfortunes, and is now chiefly supported by his patronage; though the respect and attention with which he is treated by Lord H--- covers every

every appearance of obligation ; cards being proposed, his Lordship received additional satisfaction from learning that both my mother and myself were acquainted with the game of whist, a party at which was immediately formed, and proposed to be frequently repeated, as my uncle has declined visiting any of the clubs, except Almacks, where he seldom goes above once or twice a week.

On the following morning my new attendant was introduced to me by Mrs. Mercer, and at her request, entered immediately into the employment that had been solicited for her ; she appears to be about twenty-three, and must have been extremely pretty, I say must *have been*, for though apparently so young, a visible melancholy and oppression, has preyed on her beauties, and produced that

change which adversity fails not to effect; her manners would be highly pleasing, but that her humble timidity alarms my feelings, and from sympathetic concern, her assiduities are painful and oppressive to me. I shall however by the kindest treatment endeavor to deserve her confidence, and if it should be in my power to remove the pressure of her misfortunes, she shall not be unrelieved.

I am extremely obliged to you for your kind offer to entertain honest Nicolai, but he is provided for beyond his hope, and to the very summit of his ambition. On my communicating the situation of this faithful domestic to Lord H--- in consequence of his Lordship's enquiries after the whole of our Norman establishment, he immediately sent for Nicolai, and has constituted him Maitre d'Hotel,

d'Hotel, and occasional cook at a little fishing box on the bank of the Thames, about twenty miles from town, which he lately purchased to enjoy his favorite amusement, in the earlier season of the year, before the parliamentary recess permits his retirement to Monteville-Castle. On the first offer of this post of honor and profit, the acknowledgments of the honest Norman were so very short of our expectation, that we were filled with astonishment at his insensibility; but our surprize soon gave way to emotions of grateful esteem, when the poor fellow, bursting into tears, intreated his Lordship's permission to tender a continuance of his service to his honored Ladies, whose commands he would with joy obey during the remainder of his life without any other gratification than that

which would arise from our kind acceptance of his endeavors.

Lord H--- appeared to be much affected with this proof of disinterested attachment, which he told him reflected credit on him, and honor on those for whom he professed such respectful regard; and having explained to him that we should be resident at the house where he was to take the command for some months in every year, and that he would be welcome to visit us in Grosvenor-Square as often as he pleased; the matter was compromised, and Nicolai prepared to set out for his government; he did not however depart till, in the warmth and vanity of his heart, he had assured his Lordship that he could not have made a better choice for the employment, as, over and above his abilities in the kitchen?

kitchen, for the superior excellence of which he appealed to his Ladies; he had been an angler from his youth, and was acquainted with many secrets in that art which he was ready to communicate for his Lordship's improvement.

I am just retired from entertaining a numerous company to whom his Lordship gave a magnificent dinner by way of introducing his niece to the beau monde, but as you wish me to proceed methodically, I shall postpone my accounts of the very respectable personages to whom I have been made known on this occasion till the circumstance occurs in order of time.

I shall only in this place say, that his Lordship's house is magnificent, as well in size, as in furniture and embellishments; his servants sufficiently but not burthen somely

burthensomely numerous, and of sober, decent, and respectable manners and appearance ; his table plentifully and elegantly supplied, and that the *toute ensemble* exhibits evident marks of wealth and magnificence, bounded by proper, but by no means limited, œconomy.

But amidst the fond caresses of an affectionate relation, the possession of all that riches and power can bestow, and the almost certain prospect of vast successions ; my heart, devoted to one object alone, sickens at all other worldly enjoyments ; and condemning my “ too credulous ear” for listening to the tidings of my dear Falconer’s death, and my too ready acquiescence in purchasing the countenance of my uncle, by an engagement which must now prove an insurmountable bar to all future happiness ; rejects.

rejects with scorn all my efforts to sooth it into quiet, and with unceasing perturbation reminds me of the blessings which I have renounced.

My Falconer's letters too ! how am I distressed at the receipt of them ! I have one now before me, which has almost dissolved me into tears---what answer can I return to his love, his generosity, his magnanimity ? yet assure him I will write to him to-morrow, God only knows how the task will be performed by

Your distressed

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

LET-

LETTER XXX.

WILLIAM FALCONER, ESQ.

TO

MISS MONTEVILLE.

Richmond,

177

TWO letters unanswered, and unnoticed, and a lapse of three tedious days between each! what am I to conclude? not that my Juliana is become a convert to the pride of birth and dignity of connection,---not that the immense fortunes which present themselves have warped her from the strait, though thorny path of fidelity---not that titles, rank, importance, and high distinction have fascinated her understanding, or

or betrayed her soul from its hitherto steady purpose:---No---no---should my Juliana treat me, I had almost said *continue* to treat me, with silent contempt ---should she scornfully return my plighted vows, and scatter her own to the winds of heaven---should she hurl on me the vengeance of professed dislike, or chill my blood with cold and cutting neglect, ---even then will I yield to my fate without a reflection, nor charge the best, the most amiable of women, with conduct which I know is not her own.

Why, why my Juliana will you sport with your own happiness? it is not mine alone, it is yours which I solicit---could I but suspect that your Falconer was become indifferent to you, could I doubt your constancy or your love; never should the sound of my voice, the efforts
of

of my pen, obtrude themselves to interrupt views which might in that case be pleasing : heav'n witness for me, that I would endure even the torture of being abandoned by my Juliana, would the sacrifice conduce to her peace or comfort ; but I will not give up my pretensions to caprice, and all the prospects of aggrandisement are capricious : will the perturbed spirit be calmed, or the agitated mind lulled to composure by right honorable sounds ?

But you have pledged your word to your uncle, and dare not retract your promise — and is this the ground you mean to maintain ? let us for a moment then consider its strength -- by engagements which you neither attempt or wish to recal, engagements of the most solemn and sacred nature, you exchange with me .

me vows of everlasting attachment---we are separated by sinister events---but at the moment of parting, nay even afterwards, these vows are interchangeably ratified---cruel deceptions are practised on us, you are induced to believe me no longer an inhabitant of the lower world; and I am persuaded that slighting your plighted faith, some happier man possesses your hand and heart; yet neither your uncontradicted apostacy on the one hand, or my supposed irrevocable doom on the other, had power to shake the ardor of my love, or, though unsupported even by the possibility of hope, to abate the fervor of your constancy---our vows thus unbroken, and under the influence of a fatal deception; you enter into engagements immediately destructive to those, from which you conceive yourself

yourself in some measure released by the supposed impracticability of their being performed---that apparent impracticability is however removed, and no impediment remains to the completion of these engagements, but a promise founded on mistake, misinformation or fallacy.

This you know to be the exact state of the case---and the only question which *can* arise upon it, is this---has this second engagement, made under such circumstances, abrogated the former, or can it be held to be more binding and obligatory?

And surely my Juliana will not contend a question so easily determined, a question will not admit of the smallest shadow of doubt in the court of reason, and how much less in the court of love?

Let

Let me intreat you then, let me adjure you, my beloved Juliana, my only hope, my only wish, not to hesitate a moment longer; let not false notions of honor betray you into an abandonment of the most sacred ties; nor suffer expectation of distant and doubtful events to beguile you of your peace and happiness;---my fortunes are equal even to the occasions of elegance, I am already in possession of at least six thousand pounds a year, and I am in certain succession to upwards of five thousand pounds a year more, without reckoning upon promised and probable additions from my uncle and other branches of my mother's family: Sir George, my mother, and all my relations are solicitous for the honor of an alliance with you, and my pretensions have been
sanctioned

sanctioned by the approbation of your excellent mother: your honor, your faith, your love (for never will I believe you capable of denying the precious acknowledgment) call on you to accept my hand; but you are restrained by unmeaning punctilio---you scruple to break through an engagement founded on misinformation, and the breach of which can be productive of no other ill consequence than giving offence to the pride which you despise, and the dignity which you contemn; yet you sacrifice to punctilio the blessings you profess to prize, and the very life of the man you affect to honor with your love.

Thus situated can you hesitate a moment? no ceremony is necessary with your uncle, he has been acquainted with the state of your heart, and the nature

nature of your engagements, and Mr. Methold has kindly offered to make another effort to obtain his consent; this failing, and to speak the truth, neither that gentleman or myself have any great hope of success, let no trivial considerations, and how trifling are all others compared to those of mutual affection! prevent your permitting your last named worthy friend to receive my dispositions of fortunes, which can only be valuable to me, by becoming yours, and gratifying his wish to bestow the greatest of all blessings on

Your ever devoted,

WILLIAM FALCONER.

LET-

LETTER XXXI.

MISS MONTEVILLE,

TO

WILLIAM FALCONER, ESQ.

Grosvenor-Square,

177

AFFECT to honor with my love---ah!

A Falconer, yet, even yet are you unacquainted with the heart of Juliana Monteville; subject to most of the faults, the failings, the frailties of humanity, it is however a stranger to affectation, nor has it, or will it ever, even in compliance with the relation, for whose affection I am truly grateful, but to whose caprices, I do not subscribe, dictated the affectation of being indifferent

ferent to the merit of him, who I am ready to avow has long possessed my heart.

But though I am in all cases an enemy to casuistry, and most of all in the affairs of the heart; yet you must indulge me with making such a statement of the matter which engages your arguments, and all my attention, as presents itself to a mind anxious to solve the difficulties by which it is perplexed, and earnest to acquit itself, even at the expence of the most painful endurance, with propriety and delicacy.

The engagements to my Falconer I admit in the fullest extent, and if years of anguish are insufficient to convince him of my sacred adherence to them, I now in the most solemn manner ratify and confirm them—never will my heart

admit of a second choice, never shall my hand desert that, which, made with the most perfect conviction of worth on the one part, and affection on the other, shall remain as unmoved as the "*faithful witness in heaven.*"

I will admit too that those made to my uncle, were founded on deception, and that if I had not been deceived, no such promises would ever have escaped me; and what does this admission amount to? no more, than that, if the alternative had offered, I should have prefered happiness to misery, and the attainment of my wishes to the destruction even of my hopes.

But on a proposition made to me by my uncle, and enforced by the kind and well meant persuasions of my friends, I enter into engagements with him without any

any limitation in favor of an alteration of sentiment, without *any* exception in case of *any* event, and in consequence of his reliance on the faith of those promises, he receives me, establishes me, makes arrangements totally different from his former intentions, and forms plans in life founded wholly on that reliance.

In this case have I not bound myself irrevocably by my promises, and have I not received a consideration for making them? and would it be consistent with justice or common honesty to avoid the agreement I have made merely because a (to me) better offer presents itself?

Nor does the matter rest here—family importance—pride, if you will have it so,—or conscience, might have suggested to him the fitness of providing for his brother's daughter, his nearest relation

in blood, and the legal inheritrix of his fortunes ; but whatever were his motives, I am persuaded they have now all given way to the most tender affection, and that my interests, however absurd the means by which they are endeavored to be promoted, are the objects of his most solicitous care : and would not an attempt to fly in the face of my engagements to this kind relation, be adding ingratitude, to falsehood ?

Let me then on my part intreat you no more to urge my departure from the strict, though in this case somewhat rigid, rule of right ; at least content yourself to wait sometime for events which the chapter of accidents may reveal ; be assured that as my heart is yours, so no persuasions, no inducements, (I need not particularize those which you do

do me the justice to acknowledge I despise) shall prevail on me to give my hand to another—let Mr. Methold (whose disinterested attachment is the constant theme of my gratitude) make his attempt; try any other channel to move my uncle's resolves, I will discourage no efforts but such as invade those principles, which I trust you will now yourself allow ought to be inviolable, nor when a longer residence and a further intimacy with my noble relation, shall have warranted a greater degree of freedom in my addresses and applications to him, will I be backward in declaring my resolves even to himself, and endeavoring to avail myself of that regard which my sincerely affectionate assiduities may possibly create.

Yet whilst I appear to draw a line for your conduct, let it not be supposed that

I mean to fetter you with an engagement in a doubtful and uncertain pursuit; be you free to renounce it (though I will never exchange the renunciation) when and in what manner you please; I will not give you back your heart, for in truth, it is not in my power voluntarily to offer up so precious a sacrifice; but if you take it, I will neither murmur or complain, though mine will be rent in the separation: for believe me Falconer, though I would not *trifle with my own happiness*, yours is the first object in all my considerations.

Your future letters will, I flatter myself, be such as I can read with less pain, and answer with less difficulty, than has occurred, in the perusal and acknowledgment of that now immediately before me, and the two preceding.

Your

Your correspondence is not necessary to keep love alive, but it has a wonderful effect in cherishing hope, and when it is tempered by your unimpassioned judgment, and seasoned with a proper quantity of patience, it is the only pleasant cordial that can be administered to me.

I shall continue to inclose my letters to Louisa, not for the sake of concealment, but because I think it would appear to be a kind of defiance to my uncle to hold a public correspondence with the man whose pretensions he had refused to favor, whilst I remain under his immediate protection. She will also communicate to you a little diary or narrative of occurrences, from the time I first became an inhabitant of this mansion, which I am to continue till

the return of all our continental friends from Richmond opens between us a more unrestrained intercourse.

My mother bids me offer you her blessing, compliments she says are inexplicit of regard, and love she leaves to me, need it be tendered by your

JULIANA MONTEVILLE ?

LETTER XXXII.

MISS MONTEVILLE

TO

MISS CHARLTON.

Grosvenor-Square,

177

THE inclosed which I trouble my dear Louisa to deliver, will, I hope,

hope, restore to some degree of tranquility, *one* of the most amiable of men; to you he will, I am convinced, disclose the contents of it, and you will, I doubt not, strengthen my arguments, by reasonings founded on the prudence, as well as the necessity of a patient submission at present, to a delay in the accomplishment of his wishes.

I have ventured to promise that you will communicate to him, so much of the narrative you have required from me, as is contained in my former letters from this house, as well as the continuance of it, upon which I am now about to enter.

On the day preceding that on which I was to be presented, my newly known relations condescended to honor me with a visit, during which the conversation

of these dames of quality turned chiefly on the happiness which I must derive from the unexpected affluence and splendor with which I was surrounded; and on the most important of all the topics which fall under female discussion, the dress which was to ornament my person on the momentous occasion---my choice had fallen on the *tendre* rose coloured sattin, enriched in the borders by the invaluable work of my Louisa; nor could any other objection be made to the preference I had given to it, but its simplicity, a fault which had been so totally overlooked by your Juliana, that nothing but the positive assurances of nobility could have induced her to conceive it to be any thing less than splendid.

But

But however deficient my own ideas might have been on this subject, those of my uncle corresponded strictly with the opinions of our noble relations ; for after they had left me, this generous relation presented me with a most magnificent set of jewels, many of which, he told me, had been worn by my grandmother, though they had all been new set in modern taste ; and to this present was added the family dressing plate still remaining in its original form, a circumstance at which, much to the satisfaction of the noble giver, I could not help expressing great pleasure.

Thus metamorphosed from a humble Norman *paisanne*, to a British fine lady of acknowledged rank and consequence; glittering with diamonds, yet undazzled by their lustre, and deafened by flattery.

E 6. equally.

equally extravagant and insipid, has your Juliana been dragged through a ceremony which nothing could have rendered palatable but the kind and gracious reception of the best of sovereigns, and the conscious satisfaction of performing a duty pleasing to myself, and grateful to my partial and indulgent uncle.

On the following evening I made my appearance at the Opera, under the protection of the same ladies, and again afforded conversation to the Belles, and amusement to the Beaux ; and yesterday his Lordship gave a grand dinner and evening entertainment, to a very large party of the first rank and consequence, at which, after being formally introduced, I presided as lady of the Mansion.

And
yesterday

And now, so long since is it that I have mingled with the great world, you will expect me to tell you how I relish this readmittance into the society of those, who by distinctions annexed to birth, wealth, or situation, are considered as a separate order of beings from the busy and indiscriminate throng, who creep, or bustle through life as one common herd, unmarked by peculiarity of circumstances, and undistinguished by sudden elevation or unusual depression ; and what favorable or disadvantageous difference I discover between the first class, with whose manners I have been for some years less acquainted, and the second, whose characters must have lately fallen more immediately under my observation.

As to the first, I shall acknowledge, that was my heart totally at ease, a condition

condition extremely remote from the state of it, the forms and ceremonies essential to what is usually termed good breeding, but which might with much more propriety be said to have been shackles fixed by custom on rank and fortune; would appear so irksome to me, that my wish would be to fly for shelter from them to the bosom of that unreserved friendship in which the heart is too materially engaged to be confined to the observance of exteriors; and that in the present disposition of my mind, I should prefer even solitude itself to the etiquette, formality, and solemn pomp of greatness.

And as to the second, I am free to confess that to me human nature appears the same through all the disguises of title, riches, power, mediocrity, poverty,

verty, and distress ; and that the same virtues, and the same vices, the same propensities, and the same feelings, actuate the whole race of man, from the Prince to the peasant, and shew themselves in precisely the same way ; with this difference as to the effect, that virtue and vice are more exemplary in the great than the little, and that a good or a bad man of exalted rank or consequence, is more important in the relation he bears to society, than a pure or depraved character in private life.

On reperusal of the three last paragraphs I perceive I have been unusually, and I am afraid you will say uncharacteristically, sententious ; if so, reprehend me as I deserve, yet I think the edge of your strictures will be blunted by an avowal of the charge, and a hint, that in my situation,

situation, I find it frequently necessary to wander from myself; my task is not a light one, duty and gratitude require me to be more than passive in scenes formed for my entertainment, and intended to answer purposes apparently beneficial to me, whilst my mind remains incapable of assuming the character I am to perform, and drags me back to painful and distressful recollection; under such circumstances I endeavor to start subjects of ratiocination, the only *bardinagé* to which my spirits are at present equal, and you will allow there can hardly be a more ludicrous way of trifling, than for a woman to attempt to reason.

My next letter shall however atone for the dull solemnity of this; it shall contain a history, eventful, and if my pen

pen is capable of doing justice to the tale, pathetic, but that I very much doubt---Adieu! my Louisa, receive and distribute all the respectful and affectionate wishes of your

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

MISS MONTEVILLE,

TO

MISS CHARLTON.

Laleham,

177

YOU will observe by the place from whence I date this letter, that the distance between us is somewhat increased since I concluded my last, and this

this circumstance will account for the delay which has arisen in my giving the communications promised in that letter, and of which you make such heavy complaints in the very short note which has this moment reached my hands.

And does your curiosity run so very high, my Louisa, that you have scarce patience to tell me you are disappointed? such are the effects of ease and fully-gratified wishes---when your heart was racked with the anguish of hopeless love, and your mind tortured with unpromising doubt and suspense, did the fate of any individual, besides D'Hefton, interest your cares? to relieve the distressed, to visit the sick, to cherish the unfortunate, were duties exacted from you by the calls of humanity, and you were urged to the performance of them by a general disposition

disposition to benevolence ; for the ordinary impulse of curiosity your mind had no room ; it was completely occupied by considerations too self-affecting to admit the intrusion of a guest so foreign to its dearest concerns---but, mark the difference ! your doubts removed, your fears subsided, the storm within composed ; human nature, overwhelmed, but not extinct, revives, female curiosity again takes the lead, and the history of, you not who, becomes the object of such peevish impatience, that you actually write a note of three lines only, to chide your Juliana for her *unpardonable* delay.

You see, Louisa, I too, know how to chide, but mine are the chidings of friendship, of rejoicing friendship, for never did satisfaction more sincere pos-
ses

feels a human breast than that which I
feel at being convinced that

“Your bosoms lord fits lightly on his throne”---

Unassailed by any other troubles than
those raised by creative fancy, the way-
ward offspring of undisturbed prosperity.

But I shall not be content to chide,
I shall also punish—nor shall my Louisa’s
curiosity be gratified till I have explained
the occasion of my sudden change of
situation, and gratified myself with an
account of our little journey, and a
description of this charming retreat.

I had but just finished my last letter,
when my uncle acquainted us that the
house had adjourned for a week, and as
the weather was so unusually pleasant as
to promise him the enjoyment of his rod,
even at this very advanced state of the
year, he wished to spend this recess at his
newly

newly purchased villa, and as he hoped to be favored with the company of my mother and myself, he would engage Mr. Walsingham, who he expected at dinner, to make up our whist party, and would order the coach at any hour in the morning that would be agreeable to us.

Added to an extreme fondness for the country, and my earnestness to give every proof of my gratitude, I had another motive to concur with the wishes of Lord H---, I should have the satisfaction of conferring happiness on our old domestic and faithful, though humble friend, honest Nicolai, to whom this unexpected visit would be doubly pleasing, as his Lordship had not given him any hope of seeing us here till the spring, though he had directed him to keep every part of the house well aired, in case any circumstance

cumstance like the present should induce him to change his purpose.

At nine the following morning our journey commenced, and after stopping a few minutes to admire a grotto and some exquisitely elegant shell work, the performance of a lady, who we were informed *was connected* with the Earl of L_____, and turning somewhat out of our way to pass through some of those delightful villages on the side of the Thames, whose alluring situation attracting equally the attention of the man of wealth, and the man of taste, has drawn proofs from each of elegance and magnificence; at the end of three hours we found ourselves at the gate of this villa.

The house is extremely small, consisting below of a dining parlour, drawing room,

room, (both on a very moderate scale) and a little breakfasting room, which serves also as my uncle's dressing room, as a receptacle for his fishing tackle, and his library; if it be fit to give that denomination to a few dozen books, choice indeed in their subjects, and calculated to increase the value of retirement.

Above are five bed rooms, two of them extending over part of the offices, and a single dressing room, which his Lordship has kindly appropriated to the use of my mother and myself; and the whole fitting up, and furniture of the house bespeaks the taste of a nobleman, who knows how to distinguish between the magnificence of the Mansion where the dignity of the possessor is to be supported by due appearance, and the simple elegance which constitutes the luxury

luxury of a temporary retreat from the great world.

The offices, though of proportionate size to the house, are calculated to answer every purpose of comfort and convenience. The gardens small, but admirably disposed, comprehending pinery, hot walls, flower-pit and melonry; and affording every production which can delight the eye, and enrich the table---a terrace by which they are terminated towards the river, embowered by tall trees, the stem of each supporting honeysuckles, which at this late season are not wholly destitute of flowers, surpasses in beauty all my ideas of description.

The adjoining meadows, which consist but of a small number of acres, and were included in the purchase, are apparently rich, and actually so, if I may judge

from the delicious cream with which we are plentifully supplied at every meal ; the beauty of the Alderney cows has not escaped my observation, nor did my remark the approbatory notice of my very attentive uncle.

The resident domestics consist of a gardener venerably grey, but an adept in his profession ; his wife, a notable dairy woman ; their clean, comely, rosy daughter, the effect of whose labours as a housemaid bears witness to her industry ; a country lad to attend the grounds and cattle, and assist about the house, and, though last, not least, your old acquaintance Nicolai Brunon, who, like his predecessor in government, the immortal Sancho, seems to have conciliated, in a wonderful degree, the affections of his new subjects.

As our arrival was early enough to give Nicolai an opportunity of displaying his culinary skill, he was by no means backward in giving such proofs of it, as to draw from his Lordship expressions of approbation highly acceptable to the honest Norman, whose joy on the occasion could only be equalled by that which he manifested at the wholly unexpected appearance and kind notice of my mother and myself.

Having now inflicted the promised punishment, I should proceed to acquit myself of blame by fulfilling that engagement, the neglect of which has excited your impatience; but my paper reminds me that my history must commence with a new sheet; besides, I am in momentary expectation of a summons from my uncle to attend him on a fishing

party;

party; and my joining him in this amusement being a very particular gratification to him, I take care to be ready at every call.

Thus far, I will however go, that I may not put your patience to an unjust, as well as severe trial; I will indulge you with information that the promised story is that of my new attendant (or rather acquaintance, for I can no longer consider her in the light of a servant,) whose confidence I have fully obtained, and whose melancholy tale shall be the subject of the next letter you receive from

Your

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

F 2 LET.

200 JULIANA.

LETTER XXXIV.

MISS MONTEVILLE

TO

MISS CHARLTON.

Laleham,

177

A Very few days after Mrs. Mercer had procured for her relation the establishment she wished, a flight cold confined me to my room, and my mother being engaged in a party at Piquet with Lord H---, an opportunity offered for me to make those enquiries of this apparently distressed young woman, which were absolutely necessary for my own quiet, and to answer purposes to which I was urged by a tender and sympathetic concern. My

My first notice of her melancholy affected her so much that I almost repented the attempt, though my motives were much less those of curiosity, than of benevolence; by my soothing assurances she was however soon composed enough to give me the following account, which I shall communicate, as nearly as I can recollect, in her own artless and affecting language.

" My story, Madam, which you so kindly and indulgently permit me to relate, is that of a very humble, and insignificant being, and my misfortunes of no greater magnitude than those which befall numbers of much more worthy persons, whose virtuous fortitude enables them to endure with patience, evils which have sunk my coward spirits into despondency.

My father was the elder brother of Mrs. Mercer's husband, and practised as a Physician at N---, his marriage was considered as an imprudent one, my mother's fortune consisting chiefly in an agreeable person, pleasing manners, and accomplishments which though of high estimation in the opinion of my father, made no figure in worldly calculations : my father's little patrimony, and the emoluments of his profession afforded them however a decent subsistence, and the comforts they derived from mutual affection, much more than compensated for any deficiencies in the luxuries of life, or the splendor of appearance.

Of five children I was the only survivor, the others all died in their infancy ; and before I had completed my tenth year, the union of this happy couple was cruelly

cruelly interrupted by the death of my mother, who was attacked by a putrid fever, which baffled the skill of three other Physicians, and the most earnest exertions of my father, and left him to mourn an irretrievable loss, and me exposed to misfortunes which I was then too young to apprehend.

Nor did the affection of my father permit me to suffer from this unfortunate deprivation ; his tenderness, his attention, his care, were redoubled, my education in every necessary branch was committed to the best masters, and my manners were formed under the example and instruction of a Lady equally amiable and accomplished, whose fortunes in life bore so little proportion to her merits, that she was reduced to the necessity of seeking some establishment to eke out

the scanty provision of a pension as the widow of an officer.

Thus situated for six years succeeding the death of my mother, my happiness was uninterrupted; my father was my protector, my friend, my companion; Mrs. Hudson, much more my mother than my governess; the increase of my father's practice had enlarged the scale of his connections, we were on terms of intimacy with the principal families in the town and neighbourhood, and were included in every party of amusement which was formed in a very extensive circle.

But this morning sunshine, was soon obscured by a cloud, which has intercepted all my prospects of earthly felicity, and involved me in dark and hopeless distress.

Just

Just as I had past my sixteenth year, my father was called on to visit Mr. Holmes, a Gentleman of the first apparent consequence in the town, whose health had been injured by giving way to too much dissipation, in the management of an election which had been warmly contested, and in which he had taken an active part for the friend of the minister, who had owed his success on a former, as well as the present occasion to the influence and interest of this Gentleman, whose dress, equipage, table, and general expence, gave him a command of votes not only superior to that of any other individual, but sufficient to preponderate against the united weight of the many strenuous opponents of his power.

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As his illness, which terminated fatally, was of long continuance, and the visits of my father constantly and frequently repeated, a degree of familiarity took place between him and Mrs. Holmes, which induced him to continue his visits to the widow of his patient, a shewy fashionable woman, twenty years younger than my father, and, as the sole executrix of her husband, supposed to possess a very plentiful fortune.

The approaching marriage of this couple became soon the subject of public conversation, nor was it long after the report had reached me, before my father himself made me the confidant of his intentions, and as I had no arguments to oppose to a design in which he seemed to believe his happiness and his interest

interest were materially concerned, I had only to express my wishes that both might be promoted by this union ; and within a month my father presented to me a mother in law.

At first, all was civility and apparent affection on her part, on mine respect and attention ; and though my heart refused to yield regard to her, yet that which I bore to my indulgent father, inspired me with a wish, as well as a hope, that her behaviour to him and to myself would entitle her to my grateful esteem.

But a very few months convinced me that the apprehensions which had alarmed me, on the first notice of the intended connection, and the difficulty I found in persuading myself that she was worthy the affection of my truly

amiable father, were founded in somewhat more than the natural disgust which the introduction of such a relation is apt to excite.

To *my* sorrow, I now found her overbearing, rude, and vindictive: and to the grief of my father, he discovered that he had been as much deceived in her fortune as her disposition; for it now came out that the splendor which had been attributed to the opulence of her former husband, had been supported by a pension from the minister, which ceasing when it could no longer be applied to serviceable purposes, nothing remained for his widow, but a trifling arrear, the furniture of his house, and some articles of equipage, the whole amounting to little more than five hundred pounds, a provision by no means adequate

adequate to the calls of necessity, much less to those of vanity, and the gratification of an extravagant passion for dress, the result of an early, and, as it was now whispered, not very creditable introduction into the gay world, in which she had for sometime figured under the protection of a nobleman, not distinguished by disinterested attachments to the fair sex, who had favored the pretensions of Mr. Holmes, and procured him, as her marriage portion, the appointment and pension which he had enjoyed during his life, but which was lost to his widow by the failure of her interest, her husband having survived her noble friend for several years.

And to add to the pain of these discoveries, my father, whose affection for his wife triumphed not only over his disappointment

appointment as to worldly matters, but even his chagrine at the more disagreeable part of the intelligence, had, in consequence of his marriage, given such an additional scope to the expence of his establishment, that he was now compelled either to exceed the bounds of prudence, or to make such retrenchments, as would expose a deception which for his own sake, as well as his wife's, he wished to conceal; few men chusing to acknowledge themselves dupes, or to confess motives which might bring into doubt either their sincerity or their sagacity.

He therefore unfortunately determined to support the same appearances, as if the ideal fortune of his wife had been realized, and the only alteration made in his expences, was by the dismission of my most excellent friend Mrs. Hudson,

son, an event which I attributed to the art of my mother in law, and for which subsequent circumstances have since fatally pointed out her reasons.

Grieved as I was at my own heavy loss, I was less sensibly affected on my own account, than on that of my beloved governess, instructress, and mistress ; I regretted my separation from the companion and guide of my youth, but I felt no apprehensions that her councils were essential to my happiness : I wept for the inconveniences to which she might be exposed, but my regrets were unmixed with any considerations of the dangers which might threaten myself—Alas ! how short sighted were my views ! how misapplied my concern ! —the worthy Mrs. Hudson was instantly received with joy by a family of the

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first

first distinction: and to the want of her advice do I now ascribe misfortunes for a period to which I am unable to look forward with hope.

About this time a Regiment of Foot arrived in the town, the officers of which were a very considerable reinforcement to our assemblies, and as they were most of them men of respectable characters, they were received at the houses of the inhabitants with that hospitality which is due to those who support with dignity the honor of a profession, in which of all others a contrary conduct is most conspicuous; to my mother in law their visits were peculiarly agreeable, an officer is of course a beau, and a man of gallantry, and dress and flattery constituted in her opinion, the highest recommendation.

Among

Among those to whom our doors were always open, a young man, whose name, for reasons which the sequel of my story will render too obvious, I ought not to reveal, distinguished me by more than common marks of regard, and as his person was agreeable, his manners pleasing, and he stood high in the esteem of his brother officers, his assiduities soon made such an impression on my heart as to leave me no power of refusal, when in the most modest and respectful terms, he avowed his passion, and besought my permission to prefer his suit to my father, and solicit him to sanction his addresses.

Nor, having communicated to this affectionate parent his wishes and his hopes ; did he meet with any other objection than the extreme youth of both, which

which would prevent his consenting to our union for at least a year or two, and the propriety as well as necessity of his obtaining the consent of his own father before he drew me into engagements, which in case of his disapprobation might prove injurious to my peace, and subversive of the happiness, which the affection he professed for me would induce him to promote.

And to both these injunctions my lover readily subscribed, proposing to visit his father, as soon as he could obtain leave of absence from the Regiment, for the purpose of laying before him the state of his heart, and urging him to concur in a measure in which the dearest interests of his life were engaged.

In the mean time we met without restraint, and exchanged our vows without apprehension ; the conditional approbation of my father, and the undoubting confidence of my lover that his would as readily acquiesce, under the same restrictions as to distance of time ; were assurances so flattering to our wishes, that we dreaded no storm which could shipwreck our loves, or endanger our smiling hopes.

But these prosperous appearances were of short duration, my lover had solicited and obtained his leave, and was preparing to set out on his journey, when an order arrived for the instant March of the Regiment to Portsmouth to embark in transports already prepared to convey them to foreign service.

This

This was a blow as dreadful, as it was unexpected, the commanding officer of the Regiment having entertained so little suspicion of such an event, that he had actually hired a house for the year in the neighbourhood of N—, and had removed his family from the metropolis to this new habitation, but a very few days before the receipt of the orders for embarkation.

As it was impossible that my lover could, consistently with any regard to his honor or interest, absent himself for a moment on the present occasion, his application to his father was by the advice of mine postponed till his return, when the other objection might be in some measure removed, and no impediment occur to prevent the immediate completion of his wishes, unless absence

absence should shake his present attachment, in which case it would be happy that both should remain unfettered by engagements, the performance of which might be no longer desirable.

But those engagements were already made and ratified with all the solemnities of mutual vows, and plighted fidelity, and again and again were they repeated, before we parted to meet alas ! no more.

Of all the officers who visited my father, Captain Morcombe was the most distinguished favorite of my mother in law; he possessed besides his commission, some private fortune, and was as remarkable for the elegance of his dress, as for the peculiarity of his disposition, which led him to cover principles of honor and generosity by an affectation of loose morals and dissipated conduct.

In

In the prosecution of this assumed character, the laws of hospitality were on all occasions to be trampled on, and the wife of the man who received him as a friend was to be marked as the object of lawless attempt; but though he affected to glory in these efforts, his conscience always called him back, and when in obedience to her dictates he abandoned his pursuits, he thought it necessary to apologize for his retreat from iniquity, by depreciating the value of the prize, and suggesting the love of dear variety, and the prospect of some more important conquest.

On his first arrival at N---, he laid close siege to my mother in law, who favored his suit with such significative tokens of approbation, that he began to entertain apprehensions for that virtue which

which he disregarded in appearance only, and finding it necessary to draw off from the pursuit, though he was still inclined to maintain his pretensions to the reputation of a debauchee ; he contrived to throw out hints which he was well assured would be reported to my mother in law, that he paid his court to her to facilitate his addresses to me, who was alone the object of his adoration, the vanity of the *old lady* laying her open to every deception which he was disposed to practise.

But the operation of his plan proved of the most fatal consequences to me, without answering the purpose for which it was intended ; my mother in law grew jealous indeed, and angry, but her resentment turned on me alone, and to her vengeance I became a most unhappy sacrifice.

A gentleman in the neighbourhood, of unblemished character, and very large fortune, had, unfortunately for my peace and happiness, seen me at a public assembly, and contriving to get acquainted with my father he became a frequent visitor at our house ; as the ascendancy of my mother in law, over my father was too obvious to escape observation, Mr. Ibbetson opened to her his intentions to make such proposals to my father as he apprehended could not be unacceptable, and requested in terms expressive of his opinion of its weight, her countenance and interest.

No proposition could at this moment have been so grateful to my offended step-mother, she readily entered into his views, bestowed the highest encomiums on his disinterested spirit, and assured

assured him not only of her utmost assistance, but of certain success; totally concealing every circumstance of my engagement, to which he was a perfect stranger.

Nor did she over-rate her power—my credulous father was easily prevailed on to consider the concessions he had made to my former lover, as merely conditional, and therefore totally inconclusive; and as he was now persuaded that it was his duty to promote a marriage so highly advantageous to his daughter, he with the tenderness which I had ever experienced from him, opened the business to me, and with all the arguments which could be offered to strengthen so weak a cause, endeavored to obviate objections founded on every principle of honor, justice, and love.

But he soon discovered that it was impossible to shake my fidelity, or to induce me to violate vows, made sacred by the ties of sentiment as well as affection; and the future management of this infernal undertaking was committed to my artful and vindictive mother-in-law; my father having yielded his consent to be totally passive in the matter, and to refuse any appeal that should be made to him by his unfortunate persecuted daughter.

And now I was harrassed by perpetual importunity, and by turns courted by the most splendid promises, and terrified by the most horrid threats, till worn out by unceasing torment, I formed a resolution, the execution of which has been attended with consequences so shocking, as to awaken in my mind the keenest

keenest anguish, when I reflect on the folly, and temerity of conduct, which a moment's reflection would have taught me to avoid, as the certain road to that ruin which I have most unhappily experienced in the pursuit of it.

I found by the continuance of my lover's correspondence, that the regiment was not yet embarked, though in momentary expectation of orders to that purpose; and I desperately determined to confide in his honor, and to throw myself into his arms, to avoid treatment which became every day more intolerable, and what was still more dreadful to me, the perpetual apprehension of being trapped into a compliance with a measure which my soul abhorred.

My resolution taken, I prepared for my flight by an examination into the

state of my cash, which I found would abundantly provide for such a journey, and for any exigencies which might happen; I had also some valuables which were portable in a narrow compass, and those I secreted in different parts of the riding dress in which I meant to escape.

The manner of my elopement too, I settled in such a way as to prevent all probability of being overtaken in a pursuit, and having fixed in my mind the time of my departure, I asked my father's permission to spend two or three days with a young lady at W---, about eighteen miles from N---, by way of returning a visit which she had sometime before paid me; and my request was readily complied with, on condition that I should suffer Mr. Ibbetson to bring me home in his carriage; a stipulation

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to

to which I agreed with so much clearfulness that my good mother - in - law entertained no little hope of my being at length prevailed on to favor her views.

But before the arrival of the eventful day, I thought it my duty to make one effort more to engage my misguided father in my interest, and to induce him to those exertions which his duty and his honor required to rescue me from a cruel and unjust persecution, and preserve to me the invaluable privilege of holding inviolable engagements entered into, if not with his immediate concurrence, at least not without his knowledge; and implied, if not actual, consent.

But arguments, intreaties, tears, and prayers, were in vain urged to this infatuated, though still affectionate parent, he positively refused to interfere;

and referred me to his wife, with a remark that I must certainly be mistaken when I supposed her to be my enemy, whose struggles against my obstinacy could not fail to be considered by every unprejudiced and dispassionate person as proofs of the sincerest regard.

Thus repulsed, and my resolution strengthened by this disappointment, I no longer hesitated, but on the following morning, in an evil and unfortunate hour, I quitted my father's house, and born away by the hasty impulse of imprudent resentment, I committed myself to the world for that protection, which in the last event I could not have claimed in vain from a parent of whose affection I had never entertained a doubt, and whose tenderness must have been awakened by the resistance which it would have

have been always in my power to have made, against any violent or coercive attempt.

My usual conveyance to and from W---, being the Stage Coach which passes through both towns in its way to the metropolis, I took my place in that vehicle, giving no particular directions to the driver to set me down at W---, a neglect which passed wholly unnoticed by the servant who attended me, and brought my little trunk to the carriage, as my visits had been so frequent to the same lady, that he might easily suppose I believed the coachman understood the extent of my journey.

This however did not happen to be the case, the person employed to drive the coach on this day was a stranger, to whom I was perfectly unknown; with

the passengers I was equally unacquainted, so that we passed through W — without a question being asked, and without any other stop than the ordinary one to change the horses.

During this first part of the journey my mind was affected by turns with doubts, and resolves, with fears of proceeding and dread of returning, with all the anguish of contrite pity for the distress of my beloved father; and with all the horrors of the accumulated vengeance of his provoked and inveterate wife—it was yet in my power to recal my purpose, and my intention would remain for ever buried in my own bosom—I might still spare the tears and pangs of my father, and to such a proof of filial regard I was prompted by duty and affection—but this could only be done at the expence of

of my present peace, or of my honor, my truth, and my love; and these were sacrifices to which I felt myself unequal.

Such were my perturbations till we turned our backs on the town of W----, then it was too late to recede, the dye was thrown, and I was bound to stand the hazard---unfortunate cast! in which were thrown away parental fondness, female delicacy, and, alas! most unjustly, even reputation itself!

Thus far my fair historian, nor would I now break off, though I have almost written a volume, but that I am interrupted by hearing Mr. Walsingham (every thing is heard in a house of this size) making earnest enquiry after me, my uncle is gone to breakfast with Sir Edwin Freeman, at Windsor, what can make the worthy man so urgent to see

me? but I must gratify him---I shall return to my task in a few minutes.

I am returned, but not in a disposition to continue a melancholy tale--- to-morrow you shall have the sequel--- to-day shall be dedicated to the pleasures of philanthropy, the joys of sensibility.

Mr. Walsingham had been loud in his enquiries for me, but he was totally silenced by my appearance, he attempted indeed to speak, but unavailingly, and presenting to me a pacquet, the seal broken, he bowed respectfully, and wiping a tear from his eye, retired.

As there could be no doubt but he wished me to examine the contents, I opened it with eager curiosity, which was fully and highly gratified by the

Letter

Letter of which the following is a copy.

“ Dear Sir,

“ In an intimate acquaintance of near three years, neither your worth or your misfortunes have escaped my notice; nor could a better proof be given of the one, than your christian and philosophical resignation to the other. The little acknowledgments I have endeavored to make for the favor of your friendship, and the pleasure of your conversation, have wounded my delicacy with the apprehension of their creating a sense of obligation, an idea no less painful to me, than the sensation itself must be to a man of your sensibility. The office in the customs, to which you are appointed by the patent

herewith inclosed, is, I am informed, of somewhat more than three hundred pounds annual value; nor will the attendance required be either constant or burthensome. To you, whose expences are bounded by more than common moderation, this little income will secure independency, and if with your acceptance of it, you will promise to consider it as the reward of merit, and the discharge of a debt due to friendship and esteem, you will gratify all the wishes of,

Dear Sir,

Your sincerely faithful friend
and affectionate humble servant,

H——.”

Pardon me my most excellent uncle for having ever treated lightly that dignity, which assimilating to high birth,

birth, and illustrious titles, the noblest, the most exalted sentiments, makes up the consummation of human character, the dignity of virtue!

And you too, my Juliana, must excuse me, that, affected as I am with this amiable *trait* of the *truly great* Lord H---, I am unable at this moment to methodize my recollection into, even interesting, narrative---my mind seems overcharged---I must seek the worthy Walsingham, and joining him in strains of praise, discharge my own burthen, and give the relief of communication to a heart oppressed with gratitude.

And will you, my dearest friend, with your usual kindness to the distressed, teach my poor Falconer to derive consolation, and even hope from this development of the amiable disposition,

the

the unequalled generosity of my admirable uncle? the heart that gives birth to such actions, cannot be obdurate, nor be long confined within the narrow and circumscribed limits of prejudice and peculiarity.

But I must not indulge a moment's further consideration on a subject which may revive disquietudes, that, for this day, at least I wish to suppress---away then with all that concerns myself even partially! be the present hour dedicated to the feelings of benevolence, and the generous emotions of disinterested friendship, such as my Juliana's for her,

Affectionate and grateful,

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXXV.

MISS MONTEVILLE

TO

MISS CHARLTON.

Laleham,

177

I SHALL now complete the unfinished History of Miss Mercer, and I trust my Juliana will admit my implicit obedience to her verbal commands by Mr. Method, as a full atonement for the grievous offence of having kept her curiosity on the stretch for *three immeasurable days*—you see your *chargé d'affaires* has been critically exact in the communications confided to him : I wish my memory may be as faithful in recording

recording the expression, as it is in the remembrance of all the circumstances of this distressful tale, which will hardly escape it, whilst pity, compassion, and humanity are inhabitants of my bosom: but however the copy may fall short, you must be content to read it as the original.

“ My companions in the coach were an honest tradesman, making his annual journey to London for the purposes of settling his accounts with his several correspondents, and giving fresh orders; the housekeeper of a family of condition returning to town to prepare for the reception of the more consequential personages of it; and a young lawyer who had been spending the vacation with his friends in a more northern county: and as each member of this little

little society had peculiar cares and concerns, which were by turns the subjects of their conversation, I was left to the undisturbed contemplation of my own situation, the desperate state of which presented itself to me in all the forms of horror.

For some hours the apprehension of meeting some person to whom I might be known, and who would convey to my father the intelligence of my flight, filled me with the most dreadful apprehensions; but these abated as the distance increased, and gave way to reflections still more alarming, on the rash step which I had so hastily taken, and the fatal consequences which were too likely to follow my desertion of my natural protector, and my launching upon the troubled ocean of the world without

skill,

skill, experience, a guide, or a pilot to direct me to a port, where I might find shelter from storms, of which I now, too late, discovered the danger.

And as I drew nearer to the metropolis, my fears, my anxieties, my terrors increased, I must go unknown and unaccompanied to a common Inn; I had no friend to whom I could apply for advice, assistance, or even countenance; my forlorn and solitary appearance was more likely to excite contempt than pity, and I must be considered either as an outcast, renounced by my family for misconduct, or a fugitive deserting it under the guidance of unpardonable indiscretion.

At length the carriage stopped, and I was informed that we were at the end of our journey; at this moment how acute was the anguish of my mind—"To what

what part of the town do you go Madam?" was the question of each of my fellow travellers—"Would you have a coach called Madam?" "or will you walk into a room?" were those of the attendants at the Inn, but they were alike unanswered; I was equally at a loss where to go, or how to dispose of myself; the hurry and bustle which surrounded me increased my confusion, and I should have fainted at the door of the coach, if the mistress of the house had not kindly accosted me, and in the language of tender and sympathizing civility, desired to attend me into the house, where I should be less exposed to disturbance and impudent curiosity, than in the open Court Yard, which was already filled by an inquisitive croud of guests, servants, and accidental passengers.

Had

Had the proposal been of a less friendly nature, I was not in a condition to resist, my spirits were in too scattered a state to be easily collected, and I followed my obliging conductress into a little parlour behind the bar, where she prevailed on me to swallow a glass of wine, and intreating me to be composed, soothed my mind, by attributing the disorder of my spirits to the fatigue of travelling, and to the noise and hurry of a great capital to which she supposed I had been unused.

The refreshment of a dish of tea which she now recommended to me, completed my recovery to recollection and consideration, and as I had abundant reason to be pleased with the manners of my hostess, I determined to gain from her the intelligence I wanted, as to the time and

and manner in which I should pursue my journey to Portsmouth, and at all events to remain where I was, whilst I should continue in London.

I accordingly requested her to order a bed for me in the quietest part of the house, which she prudently directed to be prepared in the room next to that in which she herself slept, and on my hinting an apprehension, that my remaining in her parlour might interrupt her business, she very obligingly intreated me not to give myself any uneasiness on that account, as she apprehended it would be more comfortable and more convenient for me to accept even her company than to be quite alone.

And when on the evening of the next day, I was to take my place in a Stage for Portsmouth at the West end of the
Town,

Town, the good woman insisted on my permitting her to accompany me to the Inn, and with the most humane attention waited with me till the departure of the carriage, and by the most respectful assiduities endeavored to remove the impressions, which my unprotected condition might have made to my disadvantage.

The following day at noon I arrived at Portsmouth, and before I quitted the coach enquired of the person who came to open the door, whether the Regiment in which my lover served, was in the barracks, or quartered in the town, a circumstance which he had omitted to mention in his Letters.

But what was my situation, when in answer to this question, I was informed that the Regiment after which I enquired,

quired, had failed the preceding morning? the moment I received the fatal intelligence, I fell senseless into the arms of the passenger who sat opposite to me, and, as I learnt afterwards, was in that condition conveyed to a bed, in which at the end of eight days I awoke to reason.

As my appearance did not bespeak necessity, I was attended by an Apothecary and Physician, and a nurse was provided by the people of the house, of whom in the first interval of delirium, I learnt my situation, and realized the dream of horror, which had driven me to distraction.

The moment my strength would permit, I removed to a lodging in a private house, having first discharged all my bills at the Inn, as well as the fees of the Physician,

Physician, and the demands of the Apothecary; but by these payments my purse was so nearly exhausted, that I was obliged to have recourse to some of the little personal ornaments which happily for my present exigency, had been the companions of my flight, and these were converted into money by the woman of the house in which I lodged, who being acquainted with the circumstance of my illness, and the expence with which it was attended, was at no loss to account for the necessity which compelled me to part with my jewels.

But this was not a place where I could remain, even the supplies thus raised would soon fail, and I must be reduced to want, without even the possibility of relief; it became necessary therefore that I should determine on some plan, which I might

I might adopt when my recovery should be so far advanced as to permit me to put it in execution.

And after the most anxious consideration, two methods only presented themselves, by which there was any probability of my being rescued from wretchedness and despair; and these were, either my immediate return to my father, and the solicitation of his pardon; or an application to my friend, the compassionate hostess in London, for her assistance to place me in a way to eke out by some employment the little matters which yet remained undisposed of, till the return of him from whom I might expect protection and support.

And as each of these propositions was burthened with difficulties and doubts, my determination remained a long time

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suspended, nor was it made till I was urged by considerations of a nature superior to pecuniary straits; apprehensions founded on some not very distant hints from my landlady, that my reputation was in danger of being called in question.

Rouzed by these insinuations to a sense of the risque I should incur by a longer stay at Portsmouth, I resolved to throw myself at the feet of my father, but not till I had communicated the outlines of my story to my friend in the metropolis, and sounded her as to the likelihood of my being able to provide for myself through her recommendation, by the application of any talent or accomplishment, which I possessed, or had acquired.

And to this end I took my passage in the same stage which had brought me to Portsmouth; and the moment of its arrival

arrival in town was conveyed in a hackney coach to the habitation of my friend, who gave me a kind and pleasing reception, and having heard with attention as much of my little history, as I thought it necessary to disclose, accepted without hesitation the offices I earnestly intreated her to undertake of my director and adviser; and in discharging the duties of them, so thoroughly convinced me of the impropriety of my attempting to fix my residence in London, and the folly, imprudence, and little probability of success which marked the scheme of engaging in any employment for my support, that I determined to return to N--, and endeavor by a fair and candid representation of the motives which had influenced me in my elopement, and an open and undisguised confession of the

state of my heart, to obtain the forgiveness of my father for the breach of duty which I had committed, and his protection against the artful and interested designs of my mother in law, whose views he would be at no loss to discover, when he reflected on the general tenor of her conduct, and her particular deportment towards Captain Morcombe.

In pursuance of this resolution, I once more embarked in the stage coach for N—, with an intent however of being set down at the house of an old servant of my mother's, who was married and settled in a farm about three miles short of the town, and who having had the care of me in my infancy, had ever entertained for me the most affectionate regard.

To

To this kind, and faithful creature, I communicated my intentions, and accepted her ready offer of an Asylum, whilst I should try the expedient of an application to my father, a measure from which, though it met her approbation, she had less hope of success than even my apprehensions had permitted me to form ; the reports which had been circulated by my mother in law, being of a nature to prove, that my father must have been prejudiced against me by every suggestion which malevolence could raise, and envy enforce.

Nor were her fears ill founded---in reply to a letter containing such a state of facts as I flattered myself w^ould have excited the compassion of my hitherto kind parent, I received an answer which

harrowed up my soul, and nearly deprived me of my senses a second time.

I was accused by my deluded father of having forfeited all pretensions to his favor, protection, and parental regard; by having wickedly strayed from the paths of virtue, by having openly cohabited with the man whose honorable addresses I had formerly received, without the least sense of shame, or regard to decency, for several weeks before his embarkation; and by having continued the same abandoned course, after being rejected, and cast off by him to whom I had sacrificed my honor and reputation--- I was told that my name was marked with infamy, and my behaviour the public theme of reproachful censure; that I could never be received, visited, or even noticed by my former acquaintance, nor acknowledged

acknowledged by those whose affinity to me was their only disgrace.

In vain did I solicit enquiries into the truth of these base and unfounded charges, and equally vain were my assertions that I could bring the clearest, the most incontestible proofs of my innocence ; my intreaties, and my protestations were treated alike with contempt, and the only indulgence I could obtain from my implacable father, was an offer to supply me with a small annual sum for my support, if I would retire to the continent, and fix my residence in a convent ; and that on my compliance with this stipulation, he would furnish me with a letter to a friend of his in London, who would take upon himself to provide such a settlement for me, and the means of my conveyance to it.

In my present melancholy circumstances, my reputation cruelly blasted, and all hope of reconciliation with my father at an end, no proposal could have been more acceptable to me; I therefore embraced it without hesitation, and taking leave of my present benefactress, after engaging her to acquaint me from time to time with the state of my father's health, and to inform me of any changes that might happen at N---, by which my interest might be in any way affected, for which purpose I was to furnish her with my address as soon as I should arrive at the place which should be destined for my residence; I returned to the capital, and in about three weeks removed to a convent at Abbeville in Picardy, to the principal of which, my father's friend, a merchant of respectability,

ability, had procured me a proper recommendation.

Here I remained, uninterrupted by any additional weight to my afflictions for near two years, when all my misfortunes were aggravated by accounts received from a young Lady, who returning from the convent to her friends in England, I had requested to make enquiries after my lover ; accounts with which it is unnecessary to trouble you, but which were equally mortifying to my love, my pride, and my sensibility.

After this shock, nothing but religious scruples would have prevented my taking up my everlasting abode within the walls of this convent, and these I am apprehensive would at length have given way to my increasing melancholy, if I had not been rouzed from my depression,

by intelligence received from my old friend near N—, that my father's marriage had indeed proved most unfortunate to him; that the extravagance of his wife, had so embarrassed his affairs, that he had been obliged to quit his professional employment, and retire to some distant part of the kingdom, but where she had been unable to discover; but that he was unaccompanied by his wife, whose behaviour had long been the source of great uneasiness to him, and who, on this occasion, actually deserted him, and lived openly on the most scandalous terms, with an Officer who had acquired a considerable fortune in the service of the East India Company, and now resided at a seat he had purchased a few miles from N—.

Alarmed

Alarmed at this representation of my father's misfortunes, and apprehensive that the continuance of my pension might increase his distress, I determined to quit my present peaceful abode, and endeavor to prevent the necessity of my continuing burthensome to him, by exerting my industry for my own support; and without taking a final leave of the sisterhood, to whom it might yet be necessary to return, if my intentions should fail of success, I took the opportunity of returning to England with a Pensioner who had completed her education, and whose parents had requested the Abbess to put her under the care of any person who might have occasion to take the voyage, and on whose attention to the charge she could venture to rely.

On my arrival in London I was kindly solicited to remain with my ward as long as my occasions should require my stay in town, an invitation which I gladly accepted, as it prevented my being exposed to a situation, the fatal consequences of which I had experienced from my involuntary residence in the same solitary way at Portsmouth.

And now it occurred to me, that my father's brother, who was a Clergyman, had a living, the name of which I recollect, about twenty miles from London; and though I had never seen this relation, nor had my father from the time of his first marriage, I did not think it improbable that I might, through him, discover the retreat of my parent, or that my tale might so far excite his compassion, that he might countenance me in

in my endeavors to provide for my future maintenance ; and as I apprehended a personal application would be most likely to succeed, I acquainted the family who obligingly entertained me, with my intention to visit an uncle in Hertfordshire, and the road of one of the Northern Stages lying through the Village, I took my passage in it the next morning.

But my short acquaintance with the world had produced a series of disappointments, and on this occasion my evil genius again prevailed ; for on my arrival at the supposed residence of my uncle, I found he had been dead near two years, and had left a worthy widow in circumstances far from affluent.

To this representative of my relation, of whose disposition the Village intelligence

ligence had taught me to form the most favorable opinion, I obtained a direction, which led me to the house of Lord H---, where I was received by this most excellent woman with a degree of tenderness and humanity, which I shall ever remember with the highest, the sincerest gratitude: on my relating to her the story of my misfortunes, she told me, it was too artless to be deceitful; and on my offering to corroborate my relation by proof, she kindly and compassionately declared, that the proposition affected her mind with conviction.

And with all the warmth of actual affinity did this more than nominal relation enter into my affairs, and interest herself in my welfare, so that by this favorable interposition of providence, I was no longer friendless, or forlorn.

But

But all our endeavors to trace the residence of my father proving ineffectual, and no opportunity offering of my being settled, either comfortably or advantageously, it was her opinion that I should return to the convent, where my pension would continue to be paid, unless I could, by finding my parent, put a stop to it, till that event, of which she would not lose sight, should take place, or till she could procure for me an establishment suited to her wishes.

And with this advice I immediately complied, and once more put myself under the protection of the holy sisters at Abbeville, to whom however I now thought it necessary to declare that I should never have any nearer interest in that community, than I could hold as a Pensioner, who would be in constant expectation

expectation of being called into the world, which she had neither power or inclination to renounce.

And there I remained without gaining any intelligence of my father, or any material alteration in my circumstances, except that my mind was considerably relieved by the footing and consolatory letters of my truly affectionate aunt, till about a week before I had the honor of being introduced to you, when I received a summons from this excellent and attentive friend to hasten to England, that I might be ready to avail myself of an opportunity which she had great reason to hope would soon present itself, of placing me in a situation where I should be no longer exposed to the storms by which I had hitherto suffered so severely.

With

With the sequel, Madam, you are perfectly acquainted, and unless my imprudence, which I seek not to conceal, nor mean to extenuate, shall unhappily preponderate against my zeal, assiduity, gratitude, and, permit me to add, humble and respectful affection, my present station will afford me all the happiness I can ever hope or wish to experience on this side the grave, for your protection will shield me from the reproaches of the world, and your kind and condescending notice will rescue me from the anguish of my own too keen and pungent reflections.

Such, my Louisa, is the History of Alicia Mercer—innocent, unfortunate sufferer ! persecuted into imprudence, and punished for an almost involuntary deviation from the strict and rigid rule
of

of propriety, her virtue untainted, her mind unfullied, her judgment unwarped, with the loss of fortune, friends, and even reputation itself: unhappy too in her love, her affections placed on a faithless, or unworthy object; what accumulated misfortune!---Yet, I thank God, she is not friendless, the worthy Mrs. Mercer, though unallied to her in affinity, extends her maternal arms to raise her from distress and despair---bountiful heaven has enabled me too to befriend her, nor will I lose the advantage of the distinguished privilege.

But I am totally at a loss how to dispose of my charge---she is no longer my servant, honor, generosity, and pride, revolt at the idea---I dare not offer to pay her pension in a convent, the proposal would be indelicate and humiliating;

liating ; and though I should be thrice happy in a companion so amiable and edifying, my situation forbids my soliciting her continuance with me on the score of friendship : since I have been acquainted with her History, that is, since we have been at this place, I have contrived that, under pretence of indisposition, she shall take her meals in our apartment, the ruddy housemaid I have engaged in a close and ready attendance on her ; in Grosvenor-Square she was with her aunt, here, but for this management, she must have mingled with the servants, a degradation to which her humility would have patiently submitted, though the very thoughts of its being possible that she might have been exposed to it, fill me with horror.

By

By the bye, Louisa, you and I, and a hundred other persons that I could name in the list of supposed unfortunates, are poor creatures when compared to this heroic, yet gentle spirited girl ; you, till the mists dispersed, were disappointed in worldly expectations, and crossed in an affair of the heart ; my circumstances were reduced, I had tumbled a little way down from my sphere, and my tender engagement had been supposed to be dissolvqd by the Almighty fiat--- but we had each a parent, friends, connections, and above all, our reputations stood unsullied by the slightest breath even of censure, yet we, with all these comforts in the scale to weigh against our misfortunes, arraigned the mercy, if not the justice of heaven, and sinking into despondency, yielded without a struggle

struggle to melancholy and despair, under the specious pretext of resignation, turning our backs on the consolation which reason and religion held out to us, and preferring the gloom of unavailing sorrow, to the means which offered of avoiding, or turning the keen edge of reflection.

Not so the more unfortunate Alicia Mercer---oppressed by the cruelty of a step-mother—the protection of her father withheld from her by crafty suggestions---foiled in her attempts to escape persecution---the man who possessed her heart fickle or base---and all these evils aggravated to the extremity of human suffering, by the most base and groundless calumnies---yet does this innocent victim of insatiable malice, with a magnanimity unparalleled, and a spirit

a spirit of forgiveness most exemplary, tear herself from the calm retreat of sorrow for the purpose of endeavoring to minister comfort to the parent who had renounced her, and engage in scenes of life as much beneath her condition as her merit, with a hope of lessening his burthen of affliction, by easing him of the weight of her slender support.

And such being the difference, is it extraordinary that I should look up to her with wonder and respect? yet is she less the subject of my admiration than of my esteem---will my Louisa be offended, if I say, of my affection?---so gentle, so timid, so humble, so unaffectedly obliging is she, that my soul claims her, and my heart receives her, as a sister in misfortune.

As

As soon as we return to town I intend to watch a favorable opportunity of acquainting my uncle with her History, and it is not impossible but his benevolent spirit may suggest some plan of a little provision for her out of the direct, or at least the continued line of obligation.

I have now performed my engagement, and attoned, I hope, for the disappointment which drew from you that short and angry note of which I shall not soon forget to make mention; as Lord H—— proposes to prolong his stay here, you may probably receive a letter or two more, but not till you have in due form acknowledged the lenity of,

Your ever affectionate,

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXXVI.

M I S S M O N T E V I L L E

T O

M I S S C H A R L T O N .

Laleham,

177

IN my Letter of yesterday's date, I told my dear Louisa that I had finished the story of Alicia Mercer, and so I myself at that time supposed, but I have now an addition to make to it, so full of wonder, and so replete with interest, that I cannot resist my impatience to complete the now pleasing narrative.

As the dear girl had been wholly confined to our apartment since we have been here, I last evening, towards the close

close of the day, invited her to take a turn with me on the terrace, where I had no apprehension of our being interrupted, as I left Lord H— and Mr. Walsingham over a political pamphlet, which his lordship had just received from town.

But we had hardly got the length of the walk, before my uncle discovered me from the window, and following me into the garden, called on me to return to the house, as the wind was cold, and he was apprehensive I should suffer from the evening exposure.

As I have ever made it a rule not to withstand the well intended solicitations of my friends, however they might oppose either my inclination or my opinion, I turned immediately, and as his Lordship and Mr. Walsingham seemed disposed to continue their walk, I only

curtsy'd to them in my return towards the house, and thanked my uncle, who told me I was a careless baggage, for his kind attention to my health.

But at the instant they passed us, my companion was seized with a fit of trembling, which I imputed to her unexpected rencounter with Lord H—, and had just began to raily her on her causeless perturbation, when she sunk lifeless on the grass.

I now in my turn called aloud on his Lordship and his friend, who instantly returned, and the former hastening to the house for assistance, Mr. Walsingham endeavored to raise the still senseless Alicia from the ground, and to convey her to a seat, which was but a very few yards distant from the spot where she fell.

But

But what was my astonishment at hearing the affrighted Walsingham, as he attempted to lift her in his arms, exclaim, in accents of mingled terror and satisfaction, “ gracious heaven ! my daughter !” Had a thunder-bolt transfixed me, I could not have been more firmly rivetted to the spot ; all my faculties forsook me, and as the almost distracted father dropped on his knees by his now struggling child, I fell involuntarily into the same posture, and in mental and incoherent ejaculation offered my prayers and praises to the Almighty dispenser of mercy.

At this moment Lord H--- rejoined us, attended by the servants with drops, smelling bottles and cordials, but the scene now before him was totally incomprehensible, nor were either of the parties

capable of answering his frequently repeated questions till the now recovering Alicia, fixing her eyes on the still kneeling and agonized Walsingham, attempted to address him, but having, with extreme difficulty, uttered the words, "my dear father can you?"---the remainder of the sentence died on her lips, and she again lay breathless at his feet.

An armed-chair was now procured, and she was conveyed to the house, supported by her distracted father, whose apprehensions, for the life of his beloved and injured daughter, rose to a height of terror which neither argument or persuasion could combat.

An Apothecary however being sent for, who declared that he did not perceive the smallest degree of danger, and that in such cases, fainting was rather a favorable

able circumstance; the violence of his fear subsided, and a vein being opened and proper medicines administered, she was very soon in a condition to assure us of her safety, and to receive the blessings and embraces of her now happy father, and the congratulations of my uncle, my mother, and myself.

But the Apothecary having prudently cautioned her against any particular exertion of her spirits, till she had taken some rest; she yielded to his directions and the injunctions of her friends, and retired to her apartment, leaving to me the pleasing office of exchanging explanations with her yet anxious father.

And as my uncle was much affected, by this very interesting event, I obtained the permission of Mr. Walsingham (or as I must in future call him Dr. Mercer)

to relate the story which was yet fresh in my memory ; in the recital of which I omitted such parts as I apprehended would be painful to him, and dwelt on those which tended to establish the purity and filial duty and affection, of his very amiable daughter.

But I had the satisfaction to find that my endeavors on this head were wholly unnecessary, her innocence having been already acknowledged, and her character vindicated by the very disturber of her peace and assassin of her reputation.

From Dr. Mercer I learnt, that after the departure of his daughter to the continent, the conduct of his wife became so openly notorious, that it was impossible even for him, partial as he admitted himself, to be blind to her indiscretions—that all his endeavors to restrain the extravagance,

travagance, and correct the indecency of her behaviour, proving ineffectual, he had determined on a separation; a formality which was rendered needless by her elopement from him at a moment when he was under the pressure of misfortunes incurred by her misconduct—that on the investigation of his affairs, his fortune appeared to be totally exhausted,—that unable to support the united horrors of poverty and (however unmerited) disgrace, in the place where he had so long lived in credit and respect; he paid off his debts and, though earnestly solicited by those who knew and esteemed him, to pursue his practice, to the sure re-establishment of his fortunes, with somewhat less than fifty pounds in the world, he left N——, and arriving in the Metropolis, applied

to an old friend and fellow collegian for his advice, in the present exigency of his affairs—that by this Gentleman he was introduced to my Uncle, who being just recovered from a slight paralytic attack, had been directed to seek the perfect re-establishment of his health in the warmer climates of Europe, and was solicitous to engage as a companion for his journey, some Gentleman of education and character, and, if possible, of medical knowledge—that he accompanied Lord H— to the south of France, and at his return was compelled, by him, to accept an engagement for the payment of an annual gratuity, though he earnestly intreated permission to rely on that friendship, in which, as the event has proved, he justly placed the most perfect confidence—that he has continued on terms of the

most

most perfect and friendly intimacy with his Lordship, spending the greatest part of his time with him, though from motives of delicacy that nobleman had declined inviting him to reside in his house, where he might, in that case, have been classed among his other domestic dependents---that about three months ago he had received intelligence of the death of his wife, who in the few days illness which preceded that event, had done the most complete justice to the injured character of her daughter in law, by imputing the calumnious charges, by which her character had been so basely attacked, to her own iniquitous invention, and the promulgation of them to inveteracy and malice which she then acknowledged had their foundation in predominant envy---that she also expressed great contrition, as

well on this account, as for the general impropriety of her conduct, and her ingratitude to a fond and too indulgent husband---that he had purposed to go to his daughter at Abbeville, to ease her mind of the distress which the various cruelties inflicted on her must have occasioned, and to restore to her the affectionate endearments of which she had been so long and so cruelly deprived, but had been hitherto prevented by the situation of his affairs, and the difficulty of providing an establishment for his beloved child---and he accounted for his having been a constant visitor at Lord H---'s house, without knowing his worthy sister in law, by his never having held any other intercourse with his brother than by letter, from the time of his first settling in Hertfordshire, and attributed

tributed his not being known by her, to the same cause, with the additional circumstance of his having ceased to use a name which might otherwise have produced an ecclaircissement.

Nothing can equal the behaviour of Lord H--- on this happy occasion; as soon as he was acquainted with these interesting circumstances, he unsolicitedly sent off his post chaise for Mrs. Mercer, that the good woman, who has always stood high in his esteem, may participate in the general joy, in the promotion of which she has been the happy instrument---his Lordship has also kindly made Dr. Mercer a present, for the lives of himself and Miss Mercer, of a small house which lately came into his hands by the expiration of a lease, and is a part of his large estate in Westminster, and has

offered him for his Summer residence the use of a lodge in the Park of Monteville-Castle, which was formerly occupied by a great uncle of his Lordship, a general officer, who having been much in service, and having been accustomed to camps and fortresses, rather chose to reside with two or three of his old servants in this building, which was erected at his expence and by his own direction, where he might enjoy his own peculiarities without observation or interruption; than to accept apartments in the Castle, where his politeness would not have permitted him to break in upon the established forms of the family, nor his conformity to them have been agreeable to himself.

Of this old gentleman, who reached the age of one hundred, and died about twenty

twenty years ago, my uncle speaks highly, as an officer of distinguished merit and abilities, and an entertaining cheerful and benevolent old batchelor. His books, plans, arms, and the military part of his wardrobe, many garments of which bear vestiges of the dangers which the wearer encountered, are yet remaining in the lodge, and at the earnest request of Dr. Mercer are not to be removed.

I am now retiring to rest, having looked in upon the happy Alicia, whose sweet and undisturbed sleep, bespeaks a mind restored to peace and composure --- I have intreated her father to admit me to the morning interview between him and his amiable daughter, and he has promised not to leave his apartment, till I give him a summons. Good night.

my

my Louisa, to-morrow I shall continue my narrative of these felicitous proceedings.

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

LETTER XXXVII.

MISS MONTEVILLE

TO

MISS CHARLTON.

[*In Continuation.*]

Laleham,

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NEVER have I before revelled in such luxury of tears, never have I before experienced such acute sensations of sympathetic pleasure, as the interview of this morning has excited !

About

About half past eight the rattling of a carriage announced the arrival of Mrs. Mercer, whose readiness to attend the call of her highly honored and respected Lord (for his Lordship's note assigned no particular reason for her journey, and the servant was enjoined to be totally silent as to what had happened here) had induced her to desire the carriage might be ready at day break, by which time she was prepared to set out.

As I thought it would be kind to prepare her for a scene so unexpected, I had in the evening obtained Lord H--'s permission to acquaint her with the discovery which had been made, as soon as she should reach this place, and when the carriage stopped at the gate, I went down to the parlour, and bid one of the servants let Mrs. Mercer know I wished to speak with her.

My

My behaviour to this very deserving woman, during the short time I have had the honor to be at the head of his Lordship's household, had been such as I thought she merited. I have never in my life considered servitude as disgraceful, nor conceived that the superiority of command, conferred a right to tyrannize; much less could I hold in depreciation, the virtuous struggles of worth in distress, contending against the difficulties to which the most deserving are too often exposed, or treat with rudeness or disrespect those whose less fortunate casts in life, had placed them in a state of subserviency in itself sufficiently irksome, without the cruel aggravation of proud and insolent contumely.

*no bid bid a greeting said or said
badly I went round and round*

The

The good woman therefore was wholly unaffected with surprize at my desiring her to be seated, whilst I should open to her circumstances in which she would feel herself peculiarly interested, and the disclosure of which had been the occasion of his Lordship's kindly sending for her to Laleham.

Before I had quite got through the affecting relation, we were joined by Dr. Mercer, who hearing I was below, and being also acquainted with the arrival of his sister in law, had sent to request his admission to offer the acknowledgments so justly due to the benevolent protectress of his forlorn and injured daughter.

And having poured out his thanks and praises to this truly excellent woman, your Juliana could not without difficulty

difficulty escape the oppressive eulogies of this grateful pair, for the very insignificant and wholly meritless part which had fallen to her share, in the restoration of comfort and happiness to this amiable family.

At length however I was permitted to visit the expecting Alicia to whom I had before sent a message that I should be with her in a few minutes, to conduct her to friends, who waited with impatience to welcome her to their dearest affections ; nor could I easily prevail on her to suspend her curiosity to be informed what other friend, besides her father, could be solicitous for her welfare, or concerned in her happiness, till we reached the parlour.

Nor even then was her aunt observed by her ; for though she was well assured,

from

from the transactions of the preceding day, that she still held a place in the regard of her parent, yet she knew not how perfectly she was restored to his good opinion, or in how meritorious a light, he now saw that conduct, which had once estranged her from his bosom.

The moment therefore that the yet diffident and trembling victim of malice entered the room, she flew to her father; and throwing herself on her knees at his feet, in the most humble strains of affecting intreaty, besought him to forgive her disobedience, to pity her weakness, and to believe her protestations of innocence.

But this was not language to be endured by her conscious parent, he too dropt on his knees and straining to his heart, his unspotted, amiable, forgiv-

ing

ing daughter, he struggled to implore her pardon for cruel, unnatural, unjust credulity, in words to which his emotions denied utterance.

The scene became now almost too affecting to be supported, Mrs. Mercer and myself joined our tears with those of the more interested parties, and in a few minutes the storm of mutual joy subsided, and explanations took place conducive to the satisfaction of this again affectionate father, and his ever dutiful daughter.

On Saturday we are to return to Grosvenor Square, and I rejoice to hear that the intended settlement of all your party in town on Monday, will give me so early an opportunity of introducing to you an acquaintance worthy your esteem.

But

J U L I A N A. 189

But I mean not to insinuate that the pleasure of our meeting will arise wholly from that expectation, nor even, sincere warm and affectionate as it is, in my friendship for my Louisa ; from you I have no concealments--my separation from him whom my heart holds in still dearer regard, affects me with increased anxiety, nor, doubtful, uncertain, and, at the best, distant as are our prospects, can I forbear to repine at being debarred from the pleasure of his conversation,

But this is a theme, which my present disposition of mind forbids me to pursue, I have just been a witness to a dispensation of providence little short of a miracle, how unjust then, as well as impolitic, is the despair of

Your

JULIANA MONTEVILLE.

LETTER XXXVIII.

WILLIAM FALCONER, ESQ

TO

SIR JAMES DAVENANT.

Berkeley-Square

177

MY dear Davenant will be pleased to hear that the party from Normandy, are all settled in Berkeley Square, for the Marquis de Suzaincourt, having luckily found a furnished House within a few doors of that in which I had fixed my Asiatic friends, and in which I had also an apartment, the family, (for we do not admit of a division) separate only at night, when Madame de Suzaincourt receives as her sleeping guests, the Marquis and myself, my own bed room being

ing at present occupied by the Chevalier de Beaudesert and his Lady (with whose eventful history you will be entertained at your return to town) and the intended marchioness de Suzaincour, being accommodated with a little management, in the same house.

This happy couple are soon to exchange their vows at the altar ; a part of Miss Charlton's vast fortune has been laid out in the purchase of a magnificent house in Berkshire, with a very considerable surrounding estate, and the lawyers are now busily employed in preparing settlements, which have principally in view the establishments of a future family in this kingdom ; the generosity of the Marquis bearing equal pace with his affection for the lovely Louisa, no precautions of that sort are necessary on her account.

account. Indeed this nobleman appears to entertain so high an opinion of the English nation, that I am inclined to believe the stipulation of his intended wife, that he should spend a considerable part of his time here, will in the event appear to have been unnecessary.

My own prospects are still in the same unpromising state, Mr. Methold, who has honored my suit with his perfect probation, has in vain endeavoured to lay a state of my pretensions before Lord H--- but that supercilious nobleman has, with such positive vehemence, declared that he will never listen to the propositions of any commoner, however opulent his fortune or respectable his character, that he has been compelled to abandon the attempt, from an apprehension that his persisting in it, might be prejudicial

to

to the interests of my Juliana, who, with her mother, is now settled in the house of her uncle, where she presides at his table, and appears to have already made a very considerable progress in obtaining his most affectionate regards.

And to add to my chagrine I am, by the circumstance of her present residence, precluded from visiting the beloved of my heart, and am obliged to content myself with enjoying the happiness of her conversation, by snatches of a few minutes, as she can escape the really fond vigilance of her uncle, for her friends in Berkeley Square.

But as I do not find that this relation, is earnest to dispose of his niece, or that he has yet encouraged any particular pretender to her hand, I endeavour to submit to my present destiny with patience,

ence, and to wait for an event which, considering how far this man of dignity is advanced in life, and the shattered state of his constitution, may not be extremely distant, whenever that shall take place, as the only restraint he can then lay on my Juliana, will be by the limitation of his fortune, I do not despair, of prevailing on the dear girl to forego Fifteen Thousand Pounds a year for love and a competency.

Mean time I wish you would hasten your return to town, the affairs of the benefitted representative of your uncle, must be by this time aranged, and your own (thanks to your good old steward) are always too well ordered to demand any particular attention.---I ficken at the preparations for the nuptials of the happy marquis and his Louisa, and am so
inca.

incapable of bearing my proper part in the active and joyous scene, that unless you come to my assistance, I shall be actually under the necessity of deserting—come then without delay to

Your truly affectionate,

WILLIAM FALCONER.

LETTER XXXIX.

WILLIAM FALCONER, ESQ.

TO

SIR JAMES DAVENANT.

Berkeley Square, 177

*T*HERE is a tide in the affairs of men,
which taken in the flood leads on to fortune.—So, says the incomparable dra-

matic poet, but does not this same tide in some instances delude the unwary mariner to launch his bark on its smooth and smiling surface, and then swelling into boisterous waves, dash the vessel and his hopes on the merciless rocks; and in others, amidst the roaring tempest and the foaming billow, waft him beyond even his hopes in safety to the desired haven?

Of the latter I shall give you a case in point. I told you that my friend Webster was in close and dutiful attendance on his sick father, and from the time of my receiving that intelligence, I heard no more of him, till in the last week he visited me at Richmond, and accounted for his apparent neglect of me during a fortnight or three weeks, by informing me that he had made a short tour on the continent from whence he was just returned.

As

As he did not appear disposed to be communicative, and seemed to be unusually gloomy and dispirited, I offered no enquiry into the occasion of his journey, but made my own affairs the topic of conversation ; and on my mentioning the situation of Miss Monteville, to whom on our first arrival from Normandy he had been introduced, he asked me if I thought there would be any impropriety in his calling at Lord H——'s, to pay his respects to her ; to which I replied, none ; on the contrary I was assured she would be a very welcome visitor to the Ladies, and as he made no pretensions, by no means a disagreeable one to his Lordship.

And this day, as I was dressing to accompany my Norman friends to the

Opera, the name of Mr. Webster was announced, and he followed the servant into the room with a countenance so expressive of sensations above those of ordinary satisfaction, that on his opening with, "I am just come from Miss Monteville," I am not absolutely sure that I did not feel a twinge at my heart, very different from those emotions of friendship, which I had been accustomed to experience at the approach of my generous preserver.

Of this however I *am* certain, that I desired him to be seated in a manner too formal, and too cool to be unobserved by him; for his countenance instantly fell, and he begged me to let him know if his visit was ill-timed, as, in that case, he would repeat it when I should be more at leisure to enjoy the pleasure

pleasure he was perswaded I should receive, from the communication of some circumstances which promised him great and unexpected happiness.

Ashamed of momentary suspicions, and hurt at the reception I had given to him, who, at the risque of his own life, had rescued mine from the most imminent danger, and the whole tenor of whose conduct had recommended him with the strictest justice to my warm and affectionate esteem ; I rose, and taking his hand, conducted him to a chair, and with the most sincere assurances of unabated regard, intreated him not to delay a moment in giving me that satisfaction which any occurrence propitious to him would at all times afford me.

His chagrine thus removed, he proceeded to inform me, that previous to

his embarkation to America he had been engaged to a young lady whose beauty he considered as her least valuable accomplishment, but that the orders for the regiments going on foreign service had been so sudden, that it had been impossible to acquaint his father, of whose approbation he had little doubt, with the situation of his heart; and that as they were both young, it had been the wish of the Lady's parent, that their union should be deferred till his return—that sometime after his arrival on the American continent, he had received, through a channel which left no doubt of its authenticity, such an account of the conduct and character of her on whom he had bestowed his heart, as affected him with the most acute regret and concern---that this account, which

in

in tenderness to the woman he had loved with the most fervent affection, had induced him to conceal this part of his story even from me, had driven him into that dissipation which had involved him in distress and disgrace---that upon his return to England from Asia, he had made particular enquiry into the truth of the charges which had been exhibited to him against his beloved mistress, and had been convinced that the whole was a malicious fabrication, calculated to injure in the extreme, the most innocent and unoffending of human beings---that in the course of his enquiries he had learnt, that the object of them had in consequence of this cruel and unjust attack on her reputation, retired to a convent in France; that the family of her father had been broken up on account of

some misconduct of his wife, who was supposed to have invented and propagated the base and slanderous reports by which the reputation of her daughter-in-law had been so wantonly mangled ; and that he had abandoned his former place of residence, and was either gone abroad, or retreated to some distant part of the Kingdom—that he had however discovered the name and situation of the convent in which this innocent and unfortunate creature had taken shelter, and had immediately visited it, with the anxious hope of prevailing on her to accept his hand, which he was now at liberty to offer ; the wife imposed on him during his service in America, having fallen a sacrifice to diseases, incurred in a constant course of vice and intemperance—that, upon his arrival at the convent, he had

had the mortification to find himself totally disappointed, the Lady of whom he was in pursuit, having quitted it about ten days before he reached it, leaving no traces by which he could be guided in the continuance of his search after her—that he had almost abandoned himself to despair, when this day, on being introduced to Miss Monteville, he had the happiness to find the beloved of his heart in the company of that Lady, and to learn that both she and her worthy father were at present the guests of Lord H——.

But if you wish to know the history of this Lady and her family, and the circumstances which brought about this happy and extraordinary meeting, and if you retain a grain of your usual benevolent curiosity, your impatience

for the particulars will be on the wing ; hasten to town, for not a word more will I communicate by letter, but that a marriage is to take place immediately, and for the more effectual justification of the Lady's abused and aspersed character, to be solemnized in the town where Webster made his addresses to her, and where she formerly resided with her father.

As I do not believe that the trifling presents I have with extreme difficulty been able to fasten upon this disinterested man, added to the principal and accumulation of Moranzebe's legacy, can amount to above Fifteen Thousand Pounds, I shall contrive to convey Ten Thousand Pounds more to the hands of his intended bride, so that he may receive it as her marriage portion, and

more

more I would gladly do, but that I know
I should be repulsed in the attempt.

Will my unfinished story serve as a
spur to impel your speedy return to town?
I trust it will, and this, and neither ma-
lice or mischief is the motive which ac-
tuates

Your ever faithful and affectionate,

WILLIAM FALCONER.

LETTER XL.

MISS CHARLTON

TO

MRS. NEVILLE.

Berkeley-Square,

177

WHILST I have a hand at liberty,
let me employ it in assuring my
dear Fanny, that though her situation
prevents

prevents my enjoying the happiness of her presence on an approaching awful, and important occasion, as well as that of my mother, whose excuse I cannot refuse to admit; yet I have not been unmindful of both my dear relations, but have with the fullest approbation of him, who having long possessed my heart will soon have a title to my fortune, made such a provision for my dear mother, yourself, and your expected family, as will I trust be perfectly satisfactory; and I mention this rather in honor to the most just and generous of mankind, than from any apprehensions that either my mother or yourself would entertain suspicions of my being wanting in filial or sisterly affection.

My dear Juliana Monteville is still in a state of disquietude, her uncle, though
his

his apparent fondness now equals his former neglect, has solemnly enjoined her to banish from her heart ~~the~~ the deserving Falconer, a task as impossible as it would be ungrateful; and that unhappy lover who has hitherto supported himself against the cruelty of his fate by the hope of some fortunate change in his favor, is now driven to despair, by a new and unexpected attack, which threatens to deprive him of this last resource of the unfortunate: poor Julian a has just now been commanded by her uncle to receive as a lover, a young Scottish nobleman, who he means to introduce to her as possessing his approbation, though he has not yet condescended even to mention to her his name.

This is a severe blow, and the consequence of it appears to be the more inevitable,

inevitable, as his Lordship, by his unusual cheerfulness appears to be highly elated with this offer, and has repeatedly assured his niece, that he was thoroughly satisfied she would concur with his wishes, not only without hesitation, but with the most full and perfect satisfaction.

Such is the present situation of my distressed friend, as communicated to me by a note, in which she earnestly intreats me to come to her, and by my consolatory advice to prepare her for the dreaded interview, which is to take place this evening; and this engagement of friendly duty must be my apology for my only adding the dutiful and affectionate regards as due of my dear Fanny's

Ever faithful Sister,

LOUISA CHARLTON.

L E T T E R X L I.

WILLIAM FALCONER, ESQ.

T O

SIR JAMES DAVENANT.

Berkeley-Square,

177

W O U L D thou wert by me,
Davenant, that thou might'st
by some friendly assault, a slap in the
face, a tweak by the nose, or so, convince
me that I am awake—yet if I dream, let
me

—*dream often so
and never false.*

But as you are absent, try and judge me
by my narrative, and tell me, honestly
tell me, whether I speak of facts or
shadows.

Early

Early this morning I received a message from my father, purporting his wish to see me immediately, and on my arrival at his house, he told me that having lately met with a particular friend of his, who was on terms of intimacy with Lord H—, he had prevailed on him to give a letter to that nobleman, which he wished me to deliver into his own hand at six this evening, when he was persuaded I should be admitted to him, though I should refuse, as he advised, to announce my name.

As from particular circumstances, I had less reason than ever to expect any indulgence from this rigid uncle of my Juliana, I solicited my father to let me know to whom I was indebted for this intended favor, but this communication he seemed disinclined to make, though he

he persisted in urging me to put an expedient to the trial, which in its failure could produce no disagreeable consequences.

That I might not appear to disregard the intreaties of a worthy and truly affectionate father, nor obstinately to give up even the most distant prospect of removing the obstacles which opposed my happiness, I signified my intention to comply with his wishes, though they compelled me to act in contradiction to my own opinion, and I returned to dress for this very extraordinary visit.

At the hour appointed, I drove to the door of his Lordship's house, and having previously directed my servants not to give my name, I informed the porter then I had a letter which I wished to deliver into the hands of Lord H—himself.

As

As my figure and equipage were respectable, my message was immediately conveyed, and I was admitted to his Lordship's presence without the delay of a moment.

On my delivering the letter, he surveyed me with strict, but polite attention, and having desired me to be seated, asked my permission to break the seal, and having perused the contents, he begged my excuse for a few moments, and left me in the utmost perplexity, and in no small degree of anxiety for the event of this extraordinary scene.

He returned however in a few minutes, leading in his hand my Juliana, and on my rising at their entrance he presented me to her with this, to me, totally incomprehensible expression—
“ this, Miss Monteville, is Lord Cavendale,

verdale, the nobleman whom I have taken the liberty to recommend to your choice."

The manners, the appearance, the dignity of this truly elegant and venerable peer, forbade my entertaining the most distant idea of his attempting to practice a pitiful joke on a Gentleman who could only have offended him by his attachment to that niece, who was the object of his own tenderest affections, and in his opinion worthy of general admiration; much less could I conceive that he meant to offer a direct insult, which would only have been returned with contempt, and would have subjected him to the merited censure of every man of honor and sentiment.

Wholly at a loss even for conjecture, and my Juliana apparently affected with

an

an equal degree of astonishment, after a pause of a few moments, in which the possibility of some mistake of the letter writer occurred to me, I was preparing to suggest an apprehension of that sort, when his Lordship desiring us both to be seated, addressed himself first to me, and then to his niece, in the following terms.—“ Your Lordship, and you, my dear Juliana, must pardon the little liberty taken by your father, my Lord, and your uncle, Juliana, in concealing from you till the present moment a secret, which, I am convinced, nearly concerns the happiness of you both ; the concealment was a plan concerted between us for the sole purpose of taking proper measures for your future establishment, that on the discovery, no impediment might remain to retard your union.

union. In the character of Mr. Falconer I was your Lordship's professed enemy, in that of Lord Caverdale—I am your warm advocate—you will make allowances for the prejudices of birth, habit, and the consciousness of high descent; the family of Monteville has yielded to none in splendid alliances, Miss Monteville is the representative of that family, and since I have considered her as bearing that particular relation to me, I have entertained a wish that the name might not sink in a plebeian connection; your father has lately succeeded, in right of his mother, to the Earldom of Forfar, a title rendered respectable by its antiquity, and still more so by the characters of those who from its early creation have worthily supported its honors, and most sincerely do I congratulate

gratulate you on the accession of rank, to dignify virtues which are attributed to you by the concurrent voices of your relations, your friends, and your acquaintance."

" Fearless of your rejecting a Lady, whose merit and accomplishments, no rank can exalt, I have by proper deeds conveyed to you and her my seat and Park in Dorsetshire, with estates appendant of the yearly value of three thousand pounds, which I mean as a present on your marriage; my remaining estate, as well as that of your father, we have settled with equal regard to the support of the title, and to a provision for other branches of a family; and it shall go hard, but the honors I possess shall still flourish in a descendant from the house of Monteville."

" And

" And now nephew and niece, for silent as are your tongues, your eyes are eloquent, I shall leave you to rejoice in the events which have so propitiously opened the way to your mutual happiness, whilst I announce the pleasing tidings to Mrs. Monteville, who is yet unacquainted with this prospect of the accomplishment of her daughters, and, I believe, her own wishes."

And the good old man quitted the room before we were either of us sufficiently recovered to offer even our acknowledgements for his kindness, and generosity. Nor did we regain the powers of utterance, till the overflowings of our hearts had found vent in tides of joy.

It is now twelve at night, and I am just returned from Grosvenor Square, entranced even to inebriety with my

good fortune, and pleased to admiration with my intended uncle.

And yet to speak the truth, I am not so perfectly satisfied with the new title I am destined to bear. ~~at~~ Lord Caverdale ! methinks William Falconer has a softer sound, my Juliana, too — Juliana Falconer ! delightful name ! but down discontent ! am I not to be blest with my Juliana ? what then are names or titles ?

And are these things so ? Will a very few days give me an unquestionable title to the choicest gift of heaven ? On the most cool and calm retrospect, I have no reason to suspect delusion or delirium, or to doubt that next Thursday will render me the happiest of human beings.

On that day are the worthy Marquis de Suzaincourt and his amiable Louisa to be united, and at the same time, with the approbation

approbation of Lord H——, has my
Juliana promised to join in the ratification
of our often exchanged vows of
eternal love and fidelity—Fly Davenant,
on the wings of friendship, to witness the
felicity of our slaves aid to nursing and

Your unaltered friend, with a new name,
I promise to make you sign **CAVERDALE**

~~his name will be Davenant, which
will be his old name~~

LETTER XLII.

MONSIEUR BONDIT

TO THE

CHEVALIER BEAUMESERT

Arc.

177

ACCEPT yourself my revered friend,
and distribute to your happily re-
covered Lady, your daughter, your son,

L 2

my

my excellent parishioner to Madame de Suzaincourt ; the Marquis, his newly acquired blessing, the worthy Nobleman, known and beloved by me under the names of Caryl and Falconer, the precious partner of his newly received honors, and her pious and benevolent mother, the congratulations of all heart warmly attached to their virtues, and not insensible to the distinguished kindness by which he has been honored with the sacred and invaluable title of friend to each individual of this deservedly happy society. May every future hour of all your lives bring with it increase of felicity, and may your posterities emulate characters as respectable as they are conspicuous.

Yours

Your united promise to visit in the ensuing spring the castle of Suzaincourt, is a cordial to spirits depressed by early sorrow, and cheared only by the aid of religion, and the balmy comforts of friendship ; and on such supports who shall scruple to rely ? you have all tasted of occasional distress, and have experienced the inefficacy of riches, power, and honors to resist the storms of adversity, or stem the torrent of misfortune ; but you have never in vain solicited the protection of the father of mercy, or called on him when he has refused to hear : you have felt the instability of worldly and interested connections, and have discovered the vanity of untried or lightly placed confidence ; but you have enjoyed the blessings of well founded friendship, and the sweet consolation of sympathetic and heartfelt

heartfelt pity. Profit then by the knowledge you have acquired, fear God, and cherish your friend, so shall neither forsake ye in the hour of need.

Adieu my dear son, my worthy and amiable children, parishioners, friends, adieu! You are virtuous, and therefore must continue to be happy:

DE BONDIT.

F I N I S.



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